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SEPTEMBER
1964

Louisiana

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ROBERT F. KENNON
Governor of Louisiana



L. D. YOUNG, JR.
Director

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Editor

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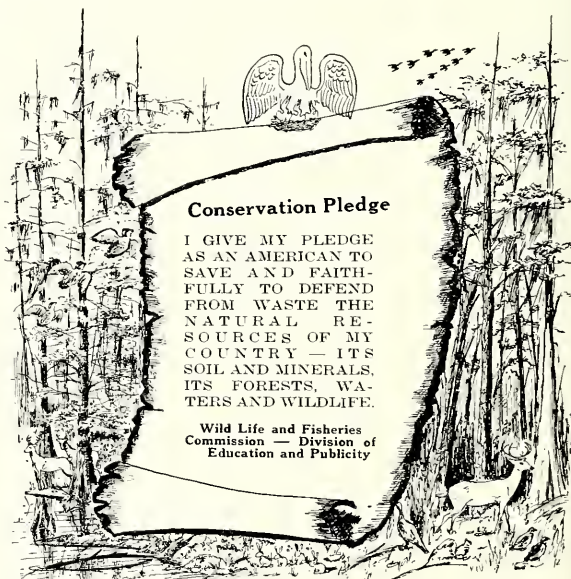
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Message from the Director...

IN THIS ISSUE

OXBOWS OF TENSAS AND CON-
CORDIA by John Blanchard.... 2



L. D. YOUNG, Jr.
Director

Louisiana

LAST MINUTE CHANGES

IN THE

1954-55 LOUISIANA DEER SEASONS

Deer -- November 7 to January 5, inclusive, in these parishes: Ascension, Assumption, Iberia, Iberville, Jefferson, Lafayette, Lafourche, Plaquemines, St. Bernard, St. Charles, St. James, St. John, St. Martin, St. Mary, Terrebonne, and Vermilion.

Deer -- November 22 to January 5, inclusive, in these parishes: Avoyelles, Beauregard (west of Highway 104), Catahoula, Concordia, East Baton Rouge, East Carroll, East Feliciana, Franklin, Livingston, Madison, Pointe Coupee, St. Helena, St. Landry, St. Tammany, Tangipahoa, Tensas, Washington, and West Baton Rouge.

Deer -- other parishes: EVANGELINE: December 30 to January 5, inclusive; NATCHITOCHES: December 22 to January 5, inclusive (closed in Wards 2, 5, 6 and 10, and parts of 1, 7 and 8); JACKSON: December 22 to January 5, inclusive; MOREHOUSE, WEST CARROLL, GRANT and WINN: December 5 to January 5, inclusive; UNION: December 5 to January 5, inclusive (closed in the area west of the M.O.P. Railroad from Arkansas Line via Litroe, Dean, Haile, Spencer, and Sterlington; balance open); VERNON: November 22 to January 5, inclusive (closed east of State Highway No. 171, balance open).

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IN THIS ISSUE

OXBOWS OF TENSAS AND CONCORDIA by John Blanchard..... 2

LOUISIANA HUNTING REGULATIONS FOR 1954-55 6

FISHERMEN SURRENDER TELEPHONES VOLUNTARILY by Mel Washburn 7

A SIDE DISH OF DOVES by W. McFadden Duffy 8

MORGAN CITY SHRIMP FESTIVAL by Lela Lehmann 12

SUMMERTIME

Beachcombing 14

Motorboat Regatta 15

Fish Fry 16

Barbecue 17

Rodeos 16-17

Skeet 18

Skish 19

PASS-A-LOUTRE DUCK HUNTING: How to Apply 20

DEPARTMENTS

Message from the Director 1

Speak Your Piece 21

Field Facts 22

With the Federation 24

Action of the Commission 26

Pollution Control Progress 27

Book Review 28

Bayou Browsing Inside Back Cover



L. D. YOUNG, Jr.
Director

Louisiana
Wild Life and Fisheries Commission

Major changes and clarification of the regulations governing the wildlife resources of Louisiana, plus sufficient monies to operate an efficient state department, resulted from the 1954 legislative session in Baton Rouge . . . and the efforts will not cease here, but will continue on a seven-days-a-week basis to assure sportsmen and commercial people the opportunity of a bountiful harvest of game and fish species.

The law changes are too numerous to list here, but may be found elsewhere in this issue of the CONSERVATIONIST. However, the more significant and popular changes include the new 'coon hunting regulations which provide for the hunting of this popular furbearer with a light and gun; removal of size limits on fresh water game fish; longer hunting seasons, and others.

No private concern or agency can operate without funds, and the legislature was kind to the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission, which conducts its activities with collected funds and not from money contributed by property taxpayers to the general fund. While we did not secure all the monies requested, the legislators did see fit to allow expenditures in sufficient amounts to conduct a well-rounded conservation program for the next biennium. These lawmaking bodies are aware of the need for sound, sincere conservation based on scientific knowledge, and the general public is also cognizant of this fact, or these state officials would not have voted as they did. The people speak through their representatives in the House and the Senate . . . and by this barometer we know that we are making strides toward giving you, the hunter and fisherman, better gunning and angling opportunities.

With the appropriations honestly and sincerely dedicated, with new and more concise laws, we place our shoulders to the wheel to offer you the best conservation program ever designed for the majority.

COVER: A station eight, low house bird gets powdered during the Spring Fiesta Skeet Shoot (see page 20). A workout on the clay targets is a good way to sharpen that shootin' eye for the coming seasons.

—Photo by Gresham.



OXBOWS OF TENSAS AND CONCORDIA

by john blanchard

Oxbows—termed by Webster as a “river bend such that only a neck of land is left between two parts of the stream”—are still producing fish by the limit catches up Tensas and Concordia way in northeast Louisiana, and camp operators along these popular water bodies will readily tell you that the Mississippians have “taken over” after deserting their rivers and lakes to show native Louisiana anglers where fishing is tops the year round.

Lakes Concordia and St. John in Concordia Parish and Lake Bruin in Tensas attract hordes of Mississippi rod 'n reel enthusiasts and almost daily carloads of Louisianians who have not forgotten about these oxbows even though fishing has declined somewhat with the failure to get water fluctuation as in years past.

Removal of rough fish might help sport fishing, but commercial fishing is not permitted in Bruin after a Tensas police jury resolution of recent date; however, the other two oxbows to the south seem to produce bountiful catches as commercial activities continue in their deep one-time river beds.

All three lakes are bordered by State Highway No. 3 and are easily accessible, even to traveling salesmen who keep rod, reel and tackle box in their automobiles. There's a noticeable scarcity of public camps and boat docks on such large water bodies—the three covering several thousands of acres each. Camps are adequate for overnights, weekenders, and anglers who make one-day trips to these extremely popular lakes.

No more picturesque lakes could be found anywhere in the nation. Banks of the old river beds are lined with moss-draped cypress trees, and knees

from these giants harbor half-pound bluegills, moss-back bass and “full-grown” white perch or sac-a-lait. Some stately cypress have ventured as much as 100 yards from the banks and shade feeding grounds for the ones which usually get away. Many plugs have been bounced off these trees to be taken by a largemouth which has looked some mighty fine chunkers in the eyes as he leaps above the surface and slings the multiple-hook apparatus boatward; many redworms have been drowned in these same spots to be sucked off hooks by prize bluegill which would, in reality, “dress up the string”.

Nowhere else are the catfish fishermen more enthusiastic—trotiliners, jug fishermen and anglers. The most popular bait for the bewhiskered of the finny tribe seems to be blood balls, which may be secured from a Ferriday ice house or from some slaughter pens; in the latter case you mix it yourself. Some Arkansas, Mississippi and Alabama folks drive several hundred miles in attempts to hang catfish by any legal means.

Louisianians are a spoiled lot of fishermen. They insist they should catch the limit of two or three species on every outing. Visitors from other states are happy with 10 or more of any species, the camp owners vouch. It's real nice to be spoiled, however, especially when you don't have much time to chunk at 'em.

Let's take a look at these three lakes:

CONCORDIA

Concordia Lake is some 10 and one-half miles in length, about three fourths of a mile wide, with an average depth of more than thirty feet. Each

end pushes against the river levee, almost crying for more water from the nearby rich Mississippi.

Charles B. "Rusty" Holdcraft, Jr., owner-operator of Holdcraft's camp at the south end of the lake, said that plug fishermen average seven bass per day—on a year round basis. After pointing out that March, April, May, June and July were choice months for bass fishing, he added that "it's good in September, October, November, December, January, and February, too".

Baton Rouge bass battlers never let these game fish "relax" in Concordia. I. E. Heil of Baton Rouge, who tosses plugs at 'em each of the 12 months of the year—and has for the past 15 years—was cleaning an even dozen taken the morning of July 5. He emphasized that "anyone's crazy to fish bass anywhere but Concordia". Out-of-state license plates proved that "somebody else believed what he said".

Sunburned and grizzled M. W. Dent of Watson's camp, at the north end of the lake, squinted at the two-hour high sun, gave me the once-over and said, "Son, gettin' too hot for bass, better set in the shade and rest a spell". When I told him that I just wanted to make some pictures, he fingered a home-made cigarette, fired up a big kitchen match, and ambled down toward a scattering of boats, calling to a couple of his friends, "Better come on and get in this pitcher". Bet he was thinking to himself that "this city feller with the camera wrapped around his neck don't know nuthin' about fishin' anyway". He must have changed his mind when I raked up acquaintance with him after calling off a list of a dozen or more of the better bass fishermen in north Louisiana—and some of his favorite customers of long standing.

Concordia bream fishermen find their ways from Brookhaven, Miss., Winnsboro and Monroe, La., and from border towns in Arkansas.

White perch fishing has been poor in Concordia since early spring, but a "mess" of them may be caught at 'most any sitting.

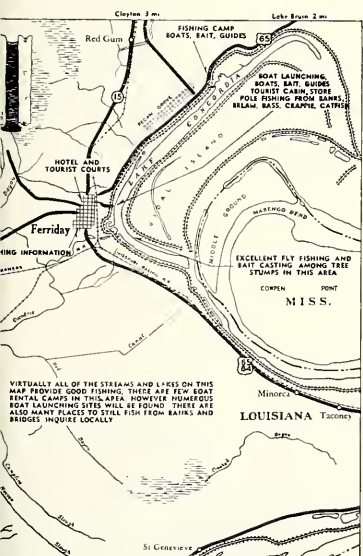
LAKE ST. JOHN

To the north of Concordia lies Lake St. John, another horseshoe-shaped body of water about one mile wide, 14 miles long, and depths ranging from 18 to 30 feet with a 30-foot depth average.

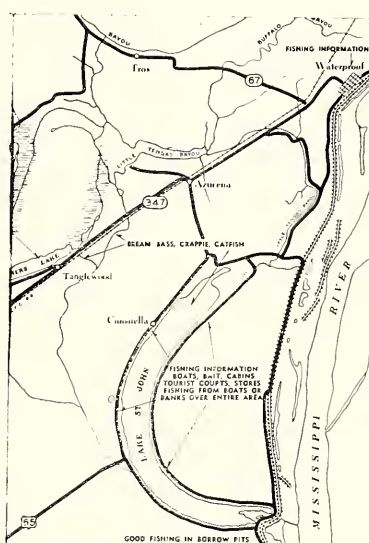
R. C. Harmon, owner-operator of Harmon's fishing camp, threw out the welcome mat and congratulated the Commission on the water hyacinth control work in the lake. "You know", he said, "I have many regular customers who do some of the oddest things. Harry Clark and his wife from Wisner come over here in the middle of these hot days and catch the limit of bass. Everybody else quits when the shade gets off the water". He pointed out that most bass were snagged casting, but a "right good few" were strung via the jigging method. Favorite plugs were the yellow sally, river runts, bayou boogies and hell-divers.

Brookhaven, Newton, Meridian, Natchez, and Jackson, Miss., anglers, along with Baton Rouge, Alexandria, Rayville, Winnsboro and New Orleans fishermen keep the camps in business on St. John.

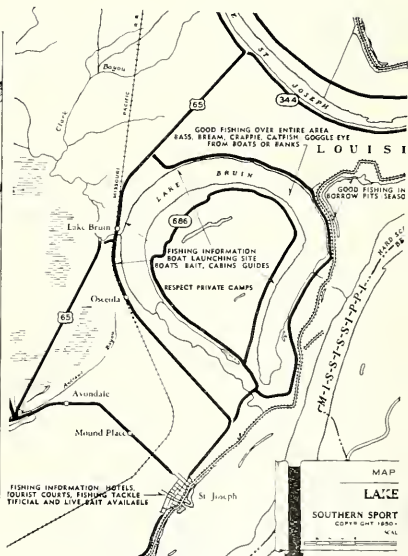
Bream are abundantly available the year round, as are white perch, but bass fishing is best in March, April, May, November, and December. Night fishing during the hot summer months has become popular on the lake, especially for bass and catfish. This is where they use the beef blood to great advantage on the cats.



LAKE CONCORDIA



LAKE ST. JOHN



LAKE BRUIN

Some Camps and Boat Docks on Lakes

CAMP	OWNER	MAILING ADDRESS	No. of Boats	Boat Fee	No. of Cabins	Are Cabins Furnished With Linens?	With Pots and Pans?	With Silverware and Dishes?
LAKE BRUIN								
Bruin Cottages	I. V. Black	Route 1, North St. Joseph	14	\$1.00	8	Yes	Yes	Yes
Lakewood Camp (Formerly Watson's)	M. E. Schauf	Route 1, St. Joseph	16	1.00	8	No	No	No
LAKE CONCORDIA								
Big Boy Landing	W. H. Fick	Ferriday, La.	10	1.00	0			
Holdercraft's	Chas. B. Holdercraft, Jr.	Box 105, Ferriday	22	1.00	4	Yes	No	No
Watson's	M. W. Deet	Star Route, Ferriday	12	1.00	0			
LAKE ST. JOHN								
Blackwood Landing	W. H. Orden	Star Route, Ferriday	14	1.00	2	No	Yes	Yes
Harmon's Fishing Camp	R. C. Harmon	Star Route, Ferriday	23	1.00	1	Yes	Yes	Yes
Robbins' Camp No. I	E. D. Robbins	Star Route, Ferriday	18	1.00	12	Yes	No	No
Robbins' Camp No. II	E. D. Robbins	Star Route, Ferriday	8	1.00	3	Yes	No	No



Typical pier found on the three oxbow lakes—this one on Lake Bruin—used for fishing and swimming.



Mrs. I. V. Black of Lake Bruin Cottages tidies up one of the eight cabins on the lake-front.

Trolling for bass is the favorite and most successful method in the early and late hours, with the pico perch and bayou boogie as the preferred plugs. Lighted spots along the lakes, at boat docks and piers, have produced white perch by the score this year.

LAKE BRUIN

The northernmost lake of the trio, Bruin, is probably the choice one for bream fishermen, both fly and live-bait dunkers, who use dry and wet flies, plus earthworms and crickets to good advantage.

This lake stretches in curved, oxbow formation for 18 miles and is a mile wide with an average depth of 60 feet. It has an island in the center where bear once thrived in large numbers, thus the name Bruin was taken instead of Silver Lake, once the name of this lake in the 1840s.

I. V. Black, owner-manager of Bruin cottages, advised that white perch fishing was best in March, April, and May; however, he quickly pointed out that "they can be caught 'most any time with good, live shiners". Catfishing reaches its peak in April and May, but continues on a "sound basis" each of the 12 months. "If the rains come, bass fishing is tops in September, October, and November, but these folks around here don't fish at that time of

There's none prettier or more inviting than this scene on Lake Bruin.



Bruin, Concordia & St. John

With Hot or Cold Water?	With Indoor Toilets?	With Fans?	With Showers or Tubs?	Is Live Bait Sold?	Are Guides Available?	Is Cafe Nearby?	Are Groceries Available?	Ice?	Gasoline?	Are Motors Rented?	Duck Hunting?
Both	Yes	Yes	Showers	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
Cold	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
Both	Yes	Yes	Showers	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	No
No	Outdoor	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
Both	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
Both	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
No	Outdoor	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No



An "honor system" for fishermen at a boat dock on Lake Concordia.

year 'cause that's the time to get ready for the deer season." About 80 per cent of the bass anglers are from Hinds County, McComb and Prentiss, Miss., with the pole users coming from Monroe, Alexandria, and Baton Rouge.

Water in Bruin fluctuates only from underground seepage from the Mississippi River. This lake is on the list to be investigated and sampled by biologists of the Commission this year. Lamar T. Loe, a great believer in Bruin, says that it has the greatest potential of becoming one of the most popular lakes in the southland. Judging by the number of boats on the water, it doesn't have much further to go.

Hot weather doesn't hurt these three oxbows to any great extent, because of the depth; however, more people fish during the summer months because it is vacation time for working men and women. Residents of the area are overlooking a bet when they leave these oxbows to fish in greener pastures.

One great improvement would be the balancing of species in the lake, and a second, devising some method of water fluctuation to revive these dead lakes.

—THE END

Captains Jesse D. Peyton of Winnsboro and Jim Parker of Tallulah, veteran law enforcement officers, seem absorbed in this conversation on the Bruin lakefront.



Robbin's camp, showing several of the modern cabins, on Lake St. John.

I. E. Heil of Baton Rouge, firm believer in Concordia bass fishing, halts his filleting chores to pose for the photographer.



Louisiana Hunting Regulations for 1954-55

Resident Game Birds and Animals

BOBWHITE (quail or partridge): Nov. 24-Feb. 15, inclusive. Daily bag limit 10, possession limit 20, season limit 80.

WILD TURKEY: Season to be announced at a later date.

SQUIRRELS: Oct. 1-Jan. 1, inclusive. Daily bag limit 10, season limit 80.

RABBITS: Oct. 1-Jan. 31, inclusive. Bag limit 5 per day.

BEAR: Dec. 16-Dec. 31, inclusive. Limit: one per season.

DEER—October 1 to November 29, inclusive, in these parishes:

Ascension, Assumption, Iberia, Iberville, Jefferson, Lafayette, Lafourche, Plaquemines, St. Bernard, St. Charles, St. James, St. John, St. Martin, St. Mary, Terrebonne, and Vermilion.

DEER—November 18 to January 1, inclusive, in these parishes:

Avoyelles, Beauregard (west of Highway 104), Catahoula, Concordia, East Baton Rouge, East Carroll, East Feliciana, Franklin, Livingston, Madison, Pointe Coupee, St. Helena, St. Landry, St. Tammany, Tangipahoa, Texas, Washington and West Baton Rouge.

DEER—Other parishes:

Evangeline: November 20 to November 27, inclusive; **Natchitoches:** December 1 to December 15, inclusive closed in wards 2, 5, 6 and 10 and parts of 1, 7 and 8); **Jackson:** December 1 to December 15, inclusive; **Morehouse, West Carroll, Grant and Winn:** December 1 to January 1, inclusive; **Union:** December 1 to January 1, inclusive (closed in the area west of the M.O.P. Railroad from Arkansas line via Litroe, Dean, Haile, Spencer, and Sterlington; balance open); **Vernon:** November 18 to January 1, inclusive (closed east of State Highway No. 171; balance open).

DEER—Closed season in these parishes:

Acadia, Allen, Bienville, Bossier, Caddo, Calcasieu, Caldwell, Cameron, Claiborne, DeSoto, Jefferson Davis, LaSalle, Lincoln, Orleans, Ouachita, Rapides, Red River, Richland, Sabine, Webster, West Feliciana, Beauregard east of Highway 104.

BAG LIMIT ON DEER: One per day, two per season.

Only bucks may be taken, and it is unlawful to take fawn or deer with horns less than three inches in length.

Migratory Regulations

DOVES: Sept. 16-Oct. 5, inclusive and Dec. 22-Jan. 10, inclusive. Daily bag and possession limit: 8.

DUCKS: Nov. 1-Nov. 25, inclusive and Dec. 17-Jan. 10, inclusive. Daily bag limit: 4. Possession limit: 8. One hooded merganser may be included in a duck limit. Red-breasted and American mergansers when taken are to be included in the daily bag or possession limits. Closed season on wood ducks.

GEESE: Nov. 1-Nov. 25, inclusive and Dec. 17-Jan. 10, inclusive. Daily bag and possession limits: Five, including in such limit not more than two Canada geese (including Hutchins or Cackling geese) or two white-fronted (speckle-bellies), or one of each.

COOTS: Nov. 1-Nov. 25, inclusive and Dec. 22-Jan. 10, inclusive. Bag and possession limits: 10.

RAILS & GALLINULES: Oct. 1-Nov. 29, inclusive. Bag and possession limits: 15, except Sora, which is 25.

SNIPE (Wilson's Snipe or Jacksnipe): Dec. 24-Jan. 7, inclusive. Bag and possession limits: 8.

WOODCOCK: Dec. 2-Jan. 10, incl. Bag limit 4, possession limit 8.

SHOOTING HOURS for ducks, geese, coots, rails and gallinules: One half hour before sunrise to sunset, except that on opening day of season for waterfowl and coot, including each first day of the split season shooting cannot start before noon.

SHOOTING HOURS for woodcock: One half hour before sunrise to sunset.

SHOOTING HOURS for doves: 12:00 noon until sunset.

Use of bait and live decoys prohibited. Legal limit of migratory game birds may be possessed 90 days after the close of the season. Hunters of ducks and geese who are over 15 years of age must have a federal waterfowl stamp attached to their state hunting license or old age permit. These may be obtained from U. S. Postoffice. Use of rifles, or shotguns larger than 10 gauge or capable of holding more than three shells prohibited. The plug used in guns must be incapable of being removed without disassembling gun. Legal possession limits of resident game birds or game animals may be possessed up to within 30 days of the opening of the following season.

Licenses

HUNTING LICENSE, RESIDENT \$ 2.00
(Required of all residents between the ages of 16 and 60. Those over 60 must have old-age permit.)

HUNTING LICENSE, NON-RESIDENT
Reciprocal with other states.
(Required of all non-residents, except those under 16 years of age.)

TRAPPING LICENSE \$ 2.00
(Trapping seasons to be announced. Only residents permitted to trap.)

FUR BUYER, RESIDENT \$ 25.00

FUR BUYER, NON-RESIDENT \$100.00

FUR DEALER, RESIDENT
(Deposit \$500.00 required) \$150.00

FUR DEALER, NON-RESIDENT
(Deposit \$1000.00 required) \$300.00

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Fishermen Surrender Telephones Voluntarily

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by Mel Washburn



Shown here with one batch of the illegal shocking equipment are Rangers L. V. Jarreau, Charley Olano, Alfred Luneau, and Ranger Captain Charley Ventrella.

Is education of law violators to the danger of their continued depredations more effective in ultimate conservation of our fish and game than severe penalties prescribed by law, or has the fear of imprisonment brought about an about-face on the part of chronic and persistent violators?

Regardless of the answer to these questions, at least two communities in Louisiana have "seen the light" to the extent that their fishermen have become concerned regarding the future of their livelihood. And their conversion to the strictly legal taking of fish has gone beyond the mere avowal of future compliance with the law. It has in fact resulted in many of them voluntarily surrendering the contrivances they used to electrocute fish, and one group has petitioned their district judge, sheriff and district attorney for heavier penalties for violators.

When "shocking machines" made their debut in Louisiana a few years ago, an almost immediate epidemic of these violations swept the state. Unprepared to deal with these steadily increasing depredations, new laws were hurriedly enacted and almost immediately amended to provide more severe penalties and making jail sentences mandatory. But owing to the extreme difficulty in getting sufficient evidence for convictions, the menace continued to the extent that commercial fishermen in some areas were relying heavily on the various types of shock producers for their salable catch.

Now both game rangers and law violators are proving the error of the old contention that "you can't teach an old dog new tricks". The violators are giving up voluntarily and helping to enforce the law, and the game rangers have been using applied psychology and education to accomplish something that long hours and constant vigilance found difficult to control.

The first break came in Iberville parish when a group of commercial fishermen voluntarily surrendered 17 various kinds of shocking machines to Ranger Captain Charles Ventrella and a corps of rangers, after the fishermen had been convinced by the rangers that they were wilfully destroying their future livelihood. When rangers explained to these fishermen the hazard they were building against a future supply of catfish in their fishing waters, the fishermen decided they would have to do something themselves, and as has always been their wont, they "went the full hog". They had shocked themselves into realizing what they were bringing upon themselves, so they gave up their "shockers".

The second incident developed in St. Mary Parish, at Morgan City. Ranger Captain Lesma Hebert, a veteran in the game law enforcement ranks, decided that education and human relations could doubtless do far more than he and his rangers in the fight against fish extermination by electrocution. A few arrests had been made in the Atchafalaya river basin when "fish shockers" had been apprehended, but Captain Hebert knew that the surface wasn't even being scratched as far as putting an end to the violations was concerned.

So he started his own education program. He began talking to the fishermen, explaining to them what continued use of shocking machines would mean to their business. The first men he was able to interest were Gordon Smith and Palacide Daigle of Morgan City, leaders among the commercial fishermen, and he told them that he would be glad at any time to talk to their fellow fishermen. That started the ball rolling. Captain Hebert is the kind of game ranger who can talk to the people of his own community and be listened to. It wasn't long before he was invited to a meeting of about 40 fishermen who were interested in hearing

what he had to say. Talking to them in their own language, he painted a dismal picture of what their business was apt to become if there wasn't an end to the violations.

A few days later Captain Hebert wasn't too surprised to learn that some of the fishermen had destroyed their electrical contrivances and at least 15 others had surrendered their "machines" with the understanding that they were to be turned in to the Wild Life and Fisheries Commission law enforcement division. When neutral parties turned the contraband over to the ranger captain, they also told him that the fishermen were going even further in their fight against the devices they had formerly used so effectively.

Recently a delegation of these fishermen called upon their district judge, James D. Simon, and their sheriff, J. B. Shaw, to ask the help of the court and peace officers in suppressing further fish shocking activities. The delegation asked the judge if he would impose heavier penalties when violators of this type were brought before him, explaining that in this manner they hoped to eliminate the danger that confronted their future livelihood. Sheriff Shaw promised his full cooperation, and Judge Simon expressed himself equally forcibly, stating that the sentences he would impose for this type of violation in the future would be a minimum of six months in jail and a fine of not less than \$300, and in default of the fine he would insist that another six months be added to the jail sentence.

At last reports neither Captain Ventrella nor Captain Hebert felt that they could relax their vigilance against this type of predator, but both feel that they have set a pattern for better law enforcement—the enlightenment of their communities to the danger that disregard of conservation laws can engender.

THE END

... a side dish of DOVES

Mrs. George Connell of Jackson, Louisiana, certainly has never sent hunters afeld hungry. I've seen her bustling in the big Connell farm kitchen long before the roosters were crowing, tending sputtering bacon and popping biscuits out of the oven to mop up syrup to fill vacant spots left after the eggs and hominy grits were gone.

If her pre-dawn breakfasts are big, her noon-time dinners are even bigger and it takes a man like George Connell who hunts all the time in season to keep from getting too heavy to do much walking. The only thing light about supper are the dumplings which go with the roast and vegetables.

Mrs. Connell is undisputed lord of the kitchen and any man who has been fortunate enough to



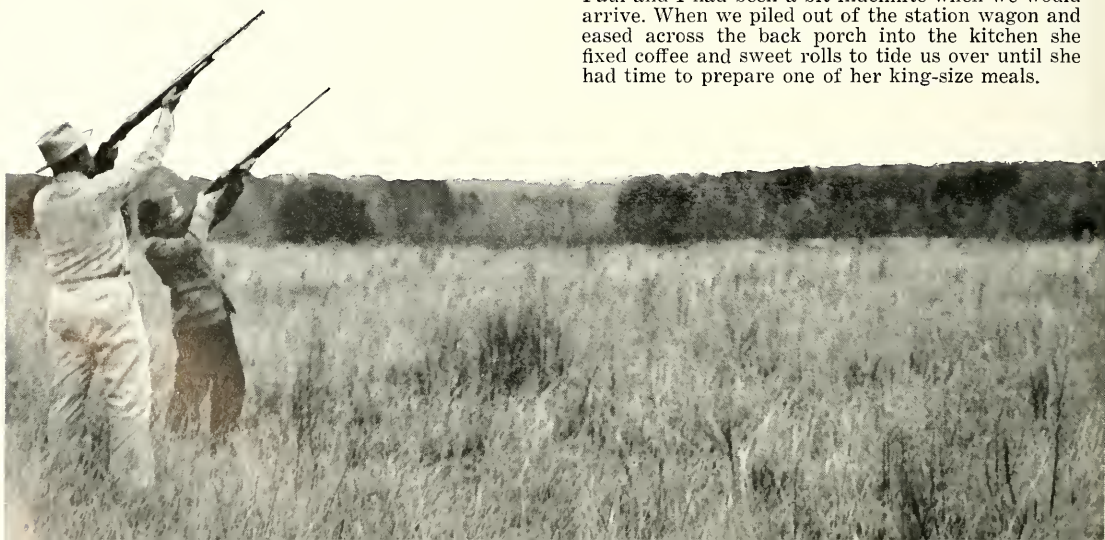
by

W. McFadden Duffy

hunt with her husband is certain to pay homage. But what goes on outside the house falls into George's department. That's how we had a side dish of doves.

I had driven up from New Orleans with Paul Kalman, outdoors editor of the New Orleans Item, to spend the weekend with the Connells and do some bird shooting. Like a number of other cattle ranchers in Louisiana, Connell has done all right mixing cattle and quail. In fact, the cheery little whistlers have done so well a man just naturally has to thin them out every now and then during the season.

Mrs. Connell had delayed the noon meal because Paul and I had been a bit indefinite when we would arrive. When we piled out of the station wagon and eased across the back porch into the kitchen she fixed coffee and sweet rolls to tide us over until she had time to prepare one of her king-size meals.



George's boy was there. The four of us sat around the table and polished off cinnamon rolls and a pot of coffee. Somehow the conversation switched from quail to doves and I casually asked George if there were any doves around. The season had just opened and knowing that we weren't going to hunt birds until morning I was wishing for something to fill the gap.

"I reckon we could find a few doves," said George. "I've seen quite a few of them around earlier. There may be some still left."

Now George Connell is sort of quiet and he doesn't do a lot of talking unless he has something to say. He isn't given to making rash promises and when he tells you he thinks you can tree a coon in a certain patch of woods or maybe locate a covey of birds in a certain pasture you can just about borrow money on his word.

"I'd sure like to feather one of those gray ghosts," I said. "From what I've been hearing they've made a pretty good comeback from the low of a couple of years ago."

George glanced over at Paul and then back at me. He winked and looked at the stove.

"I imagine Claudia could cook a lot faster if we weren't cluttering up the kitchen," he drawled.

We took the hint and there was a chorus of chairs being pushed back from the table.

"Better get your gun, son," said Connell, "and tell George to meet us at the jeep."

George Washington is a colored boy and Connell's man Friday. He cleans game and tends the dogs and does odd jobs around the house as well as helping out with the cattle.

By the time we had unloaded our guns from the station wagon and were ready to go hunting Washington showed up at the jeep pickup truck with young Bobby Connell. Washington was carrying a board and there was a big grin on his face.

"What we gonna hunt, Mister George?"

Connell explained that I had been asking about doves and was wondering if we could get in a quick hour of shooting.

"You know that old barn," asked Connell, "where those doves have been lighting? Are they still dropping in back there?"

"Ah hain't seen none lately," said Washington.

"Let's go see, said Connell.

Washington laid the board across the back of the truck and made a seat out of it. I climbed up and sat on it with Bobby. Paul and Connell climbed in the cab and Washington settled down on some hay in the back end of the truck.

A cold west wind whistled through my light jacket as we headed out from the farm house to the main highway which connects Jackson and St. Francisville. The skies were a bleak leaden color and it was a toss-up whether it would rain or turn colder. We were hoping it would get colder because there already had been plenty of rain during the week and we knew the dogs wouldn't have any trouble finding bird scent. More rain would just make things miserable.

Connell swung off the main highway on a gravel road which runs through his place and I started watching the tree tops for doves. They'd had several hard frosts up that way earlier and the leaves were down from most of the trees. The woods bordering the pastures are mixtures of hardwoods and pine, and the pine trees stuck up like patches of rich green velvet against the gray, bare, winter-burned hardwoods.

We made our way slowly along the road with everyone keeping a hopeful eye open for doves. Connell had told us they had most doves in September, but after harvesting of hay and grain was finished, many of them moved on elsewhere. Indications were that shooting would be a lot better than the year before. With a little more rigid enforcement in some of the Southern states and a little more research and better management things were getting back to normal.

When we reached the barn there wasn't a dove to be seen. It was an old building and I could tell from the cattle droppings that part of Connell's herd gathered there for an occasional ration of meal. We waited a while and scanned the trees which bordered the pasture. Not a single dove put in an appearance. After a bit we loaded back into the jeep and started slowly cruising through the rolling pastureland.

It wasn't long before Connell swung the jeep around and headed across a pasture to the far side. I scanned a line of naked trees and spotted two birds perched on the branch of a dead tree. As we drew closer I could see that they were doves.

He stopped the jeep about 100 yards from the tree where the doves had settled down to loaf and we piled out with our guns. Connell quickly organized the hunt.

"Washington, take Paul over to that dead stump and use it as a blind," he said.

He told me to head over to a clump of trees several hundred yards from the jeep. Bobby was to stay with his father. I headed toward the designated spot and Connell and his son walked toward the perching doves. My camera kept slapping my chest as I hurried to reach the distant cover and I kept stealing glances over my shoulder, listening for the sound of a gun. Connell and Bobby neared the doves and I stopped to watch. The birds cautiously rose from the limb as the hunters approached and flew out toward the center of the pasture. One of them crossed within range and I saw Connell's pump swing up and track with the dove. The bird collapsed in the air and headed downward, then the sound of the shotgun blast rolled over the pasture. I turned about and ran at a half-trot toward the clump of cover.

I heard a second shot. This one came from Paul's direction. I whirled about for a quick look, in time to see a second dove hurtle down. A flock of about twenty doves were streaking across the pasture toward my spot. I crouched down, hoping to connect with one of them if they passed within range.

As I squatted there I realized what had happened. Connell's shot had flushed a flock of birds from a tree off in the woods beyond the pasture. They weren't moving out into open pasture with that easy, cautious gait as the first two doves had done. Now, frightened and gun wary, they had the jets turned on and came rocketing and twisting along, gaining altitude all the way.

They saw me, as I knew they would, and flared to the left, the whole flock boring off in a new direction. I raised my gun, but they were out of range in a second and I quickly lowered it.

Off in the distance I saw several more doves whip out from the sparse timber and circle the far edge of the pasture, cupping their wings occasionally and looking around for a place to light. I hurried over to the clump of trees and quickly selected a



With its streamlined head, tapered tail and long wings, the dove is designed for speed. A bagful of aerial tricks makes it the most difficult upland game bird to hit.

place where I could look out over most of the vast field.

The small flock of doves which were occasionally cupping their wings had circled near Connell. I saw one of them fold up in the air, then heard the boom of his shotgun. The doves veered in my direction and turned on the power.

As they went over, I connected with one and missed with the second barrel. They swept over the timber behind me, rocketing along above the tree tops until they disappeared from sight.

After a while I retrieved the dove which had fallen. It was plump and fat and a last year's bird, I would guess. Then I returned to my vantage place and waited. The others were out of sight but I could see Connell walking along the fringe of timber, making a huge half circle of the pasture. It was obvious that he was trying to put up birds for us to shoot at.

His plan worked and suddenly the air was full of doves. They must have been perched in a tree and, nervous from the shooting on our side of the big field, took to the air as he approached. They were much too far out of range for him to get a shot but they came barreling across the pasture and headed into Paul's position. I heard his pump blast three times fast and watched two doves go tumbling down into the thickly grassed pasture.

The birds banked around to the right when Paul rose up shooting and came twisting and climbing past my spot. Most of them were out of range but a straggler came trailing behind and tried to make a short cut to join the flock which had circled behind me and were heading out across the timber where the other big flock had gone. I nailed a single.

In a few minutes Connell completed his circle and walked up as I pocketed the second dove.

"Guess that's it for this pasture," he said. "Let's get back in the jeep and try one of the far pastures. I haven't mowed back there and the grass should be well seeded up. Maybe we can find a few stragglers still feeding."

Now the dove is a pretty consistent feeder. He does not eat insects as do so many other birds, but consumes a wide range of seeds—everything from pine seeds to ragweed and back.

We rejoined the others and climbed back into the jeep. Soon we were meandering toward the back of Connell's sprawling ranch.

When we reached the back pasture, we tried a different technique. Instead of taking stations at scattered vantage points, Connell suggested we spread out in a line. They planned to walk-up feeding doves if there were any in the pasture and I decided to take pictures. I gave my shotgun to Washington to hold.

Paul took the right flank and Connell and Bobby took the left. They spread out, with Bobby more-or-less in the center but closer to his Dad. With shotguns ready they started out across the big field. I tagged along behind Paul.

Halfway across the pasture, Paul and I came to a narrow spot where a finger of thinly-leaved trees jutted out into the field. As we approached the sparse patch of trees a single dove came rocketing out. Paul swung up and made a neat snap shot. The sleek dove, streaking out with light glinting on its grey, platinum wings, exploded in a patch of feathers and went plummeting to the ground. Feathers were still floating lazily down as we walked over and retrieved it.

Out toward the center of the field several doves had risen at the sound of the gun and then settled down into the stubby grass a hundred and fifty yards or so further up. Anxious for another action shot, I left Paul and hurried over to the Connells who had started toward the spot where the doves had lighted. Paul moved in a trifle close to cover the flank.

The birds flushed right in front of the Connells and both father and son scored a hit. It was a double on doves and I guess there's no more satisfying sight in all the world than to see father and youngster connecting simultaneously on birds. I've got it preserved on film now and it will always be one of my favorite pictures.

George Connell swung on a dove that came zipping along and connected.



Paul missed one clean and slammed into a second on the left. I glanced at my watch and grinned. We had been hunting only an hour and our collective bag was about a dozen. A fellow seldom gets that sort of shooting while waiting for a late lunch.

We spread out again and crossed over to the far end of the pasture. A single dove rose up in front out of range, swung around with the wind and went streaking out over the timber. When it disappeared from sight it was zipping along like a gun-shy teal.

That's one thing I like about dove shooting. When the blasting starts they're really wild and fast. People who might have the idea that doves are not game birds and should be protected everywhere, as they are in some states, are really misguided. There's nothing tame about a dove at best; and when somebody starts burning powder in its presence, it is plenty cagy. There's never anything routine about its aerial tactics and veteran upland gunners readily admit that it is the most difficult of all wing shots. Its swift pace and the way it erratically changes its pace make a gunner's heart pound and his hands grow clammy with excitement.



Bobby's eyes glowed with pride as he compared bags with his father.

When we reached the back edge of the field we gathered for some photographs and George Connell looked at his watch.

"Guess it's time we head back to the house," he said. "Claudia ought to have something ready to eat."

We knew he was thinking of us and how long it had been since breakfast. Toward mid-afternoon a man gets pretty hungry; especially when he's walked a lot of pasture.

Paul took my seat on the breezy board seat in the truck and I rode up in front in the cab with Connell. I folded the camera, lighted a cigarette and started talking about doves.

"You know, George," I said, "dove shooting is a lot like shooting teal. Doves move along fast like teal and they do some fancy twisting besides. I guess more doves hear the whistle of shot behind them than ever get killed by shot coming up in front to meet them."

Connell gave me a knowing look as he steered the bucking jeep with one hand and fished for a cigarette.

"Something happens to doves when the season opens up," he answered. "They seem to know what's going on. I guess a man just has to hunt doves to find out what happens to them. There's a big difference in a mourner ripping off a piece of sky during the season and a dove nesting in a tree a stone's throw from the kitchen door."

We kicked around the findings of the special cooperative dove study in which Louisiana had joined other southeastern states. Purpose of the study had been to gather information upon which a sound management program could be based.

"Some of that information from the study is really an eye-opener," said Connell. "Everyone's been yelling that the dove population is in great danger and that doves will follow the passenger pigeon on the way out. Only trouble with that line of thinking is that none of the states found evidence to back that up."

I agreed. Evidence seems to indicate that rather than suffer a population decline, the range of the dove has been greatly increased by changes in land use. The doves have been spread out over a wider area and the huge flocks which were baited and shot in the 20's and 30's—in fact, right up to a few years ago—have been replaced by smaller flocks.

"Generally, it's the old-timers who complain about the shortage of doves while the new crop of gunners are satisfied to bag a half-dozen or so of the tasty birds," I said.



One of the finer sights in the hunting world. Doves beside the gun which downed them.

We both agreed that the days of dove shoots are about gone and the day of the dove hunter has arrived.

"Think maybe now that they've learned that hunters only kill about 20 per cent of the annual known mortality, we'll have a larger bag or a longer season," asked Connell?

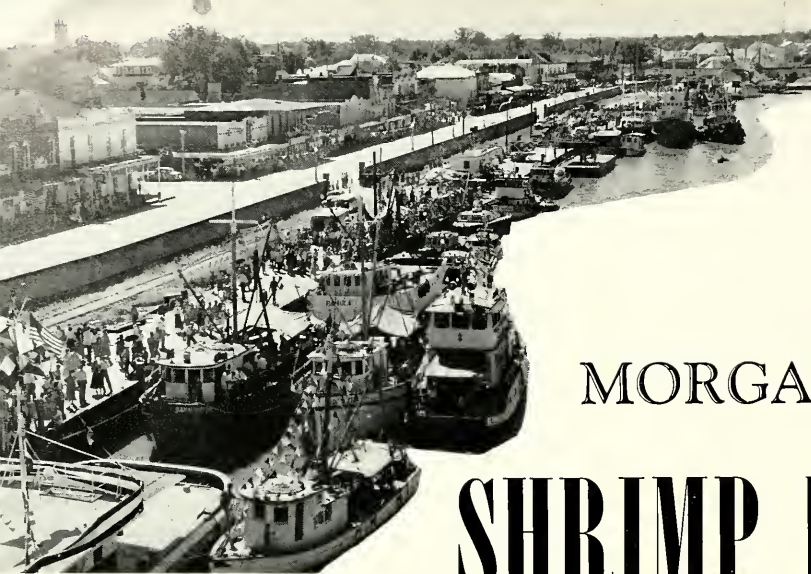
I only grunted. That would be a hard question to answer.

"One of the best things about those findings," I said as we pulled up in the back yard of the farm house, "is that under new land use the doves are spreading around and not concentrating in certain spots like they used to do. That means a lot of new dove hunters are getting a fair amount of shooting."

We all headed toward the kitchen door, anxious to wash up and put a dent in Mrs. Connell's culinary production. George Connell put in a parting remark.

"Spreading them around is all right with me," he said. "Every man ought to have a side dish of doves now and then."

THE END



MORGAN CITY SHRIMP FESTIVAL

Photos by Dept. of Commerce and Industry.

by Lela Lehmann

Louisiana—rich in folklore and strange customs as it is in natural resources—celebrates bountiful harvests of shrimp, yams, rice, fur, sugar, peaches, strawberries, timber, dairy products, oil, etc., with fairs and fete days as diversified as its crops.

None can match in natural beauty and interest the Annual Louisiana Shrimp Festival at Morgan City-Berwick, La., which will be held this year on Saturday and Sunday preceding Labor Day—September 4th and 5th.

Louisiana's supremacy in the nation as a shrimp producer is good cause for celebration here at this Atchafalaya River port a short distance via deep water from the Gulf of Mexico. Traveling to and from this harbor are some two hundred deep sea trawlers shrimping the year around in Gulf waters off this coast as far south as the Bay of Campeche. In plants within the Morgan City Harbor and Terminal District are packed boat-loads of jumbos—big, firm, fine-flavored shrimp (fresh-frozen, cooked ready to eat or breaded to fry) for distribution to markets throughout the nation.

A large percentage of the total production of shrimp which makes Louisiana first in quantity in the nation comes from the Morgan City area. Louisiana's catch of shrimp amounts to as much as 83 million pounds valued at over 17 million dollars.

Featuring the name and fame of Jumbo shrimp is not, however, the actual inspira-

tion for the fall festival here. The celebration is incidental to the real and serious motif, which is The Blessing of the Fleet.

Sunday, September 5, 1954, at ten o'clock there will be staged here the eighteenth observance of this historic custom. The rites were adopted at this port only after the Jumbo shrimp business began here . . . but they are age old. Men who served strange gods probably offered up sacrifices to seek protection when venturing from shore in the first crude boats. Christ bestowed God's blessing on the fishermen of Galilee. The Acadians are said to have brought with them to the new world the custom handed down by fisherfolk of France, and descendants of

those Acadians, exiled to Louisiana, carried on the tradition. Whatever the origin, the need which impels men to ask divine guidance on sea voyages remains unchanged, and in one form or another boats are blessed en masse at many fishing centers of the nation today.

The custom reaches the peak of pageantry here on Berwick Bay, wide and deep natural harbor formed by the Atchafalaya, an arm of the mighty Mississippi. It was originally a simple religious service but it has become a picturesque public ceremony which attracts a congregation made up of natives and visitors from all over the country.

The rites are conducted by the Catholic Church. Priests, altar boys and honor

The flagship transporting the clergy for the religious rites on Berwick Bay the Sunday morning of the Annual Festival.



guard are led by a choir in a procession to the waterfront to take their places aboard a trawler, designated in advance as the flagship of the fleet.

The captain maneuvers his vessel so that the officiating priest—this year it will be the Reverend Henry Holleman—faces across only a few feet of water the boats moored two and four abreast all along the Morgan City and Berwick shores. As the flagship glides past the anchored fleet and circles the bay the priest wields his aspergil to sprinkle holy water in the direction of each craft and its passengers. Simple white crosses are the only symbols of an ecclesiastical setting aboard the flagship but the priests wear the splendid vestments of their office, the altar boys robed in white surplices over red cassocks hold their burning candles, and sworded Knights of Columbus stand at attention in the background. It is not possible for the huge congregation on boats and shore to hear the lines of the prayers said, the scriptures read, and the Litany of the Saints chanted during the ceremony but here again it is true that the "picture is worth a thousand words". The service, however, is by now a familiar one, and echoed in every heart during the hour of worship are such passages as: "guard them ever from all dangers together with all those who are with them . . . and having overcome all hazards and followed a peaceful course . . . be successful in their work and in good time return with joy to their homes. . . ."

Men may vary in creed but none scoffs at the dangers inherent in jobs offshore. All agree that stout hearts and ships and the miraculous modern day navigation aids are not enough to battle storms at sea.

Here at this port marine industries engage a vast number.

Once the gulf waters off this coast were fishing grounds for the shrimp fleet and shipping lanes for a few freight and passenger boats. Now vessels of many different types and in steadily increasing numbers criss-cross with the trawlers in the open waters beyond Louisiana shores. They are engaged in seismograph work, drilling for oil and gas, supplying wells, transporting crews, barging oil and in steady commercial towing.

The visitor gains some impression of the infinite variety of floating equipment used here when the Water Parade takes place following the ritual of the blessing. Even the most devout banish solemn thoughts once the flagship signals the start of the parade. Passenger-laden trawlers, tugs, speed boats, luggers, yachts, cruisers, and former LST's and LCT's cruise up and down the bay. It is difficult to decide who has the best time—the excursionists or the spectators on shore who have a full view of an unparalleled "passing show". Colors in costumes and boat decorations are riotous. The judges are hard pressed to award prizes in the best decorated boat contest so unusual are the effects created by balloons and bunting, paint and paper.

Amateur and professional photographers, artists, writers and radiomen have a field day recording the charming custom of the Blessing and the thrilling pageant of the Water Parade.

While the program events Sunday morning are the highlights of the two day festival, there are many other attractions.

Saturday opens with exhibits and contests, some of them unique in character. There is usually a pirogue race on Satur-

day afternoon. At night a gay coronation ball is the focus of interest. There is revealed the identity of the King of the Shrimp Festival. He wins the right to wear the crown by virtue of having outranked all other shrimp fishermen in the Morgan City area in number of pounds of shrimp produced during the past year. Records are kept secretly so that the coronation ball has the element of surprise to add excitement to the beauty of the court show. Her Majesty and her Maids are chosen in advance of the Festival in a parish-wide beauty contest.

Of special interest this year will be the addition to the program of a brilliant fireworks display on Berwick Bay Saturday night prior to the Court Show.

A Golf Tournament at the St. Mary Country Club will be held Saturday and Sunday of the Shrimp Festival as a supplementary feature of the weekend program.

Power boat races on Berwick Bay are one of the main events on Sunday. Renowned divers from throughout Louisiana and neighboring states compete for prize money offered by the Festival and awarded under American Power Boat Association rules, with New Orleans Power Boat Association members as officials.

A street parade of custom built floats, fine horses and riders, bands and beautiful girls is another Sunday program feature.

Head of the Louisiana Shrimp Festival and Fair Association, Inc., for the second year, is Jack J. Johnson, who is also president of the Gulf Coast Shrimp Producers Union. Mayor Dr. C. R. Brownell is vice-president, Mrs. F. A. Russo Secretary and B. A. Blakeman, treasurer. THE END

Scenes like this—the unloading of shrimp to wharf to conveyor into packing plant—are not seen on Blessing of the Fleet day, as the fleet is taking a holiday.



Ashley Galloway, champion shrimper of the 1952-53 season in this area, crowns his Queen, Miss Vera Boudreaux, as Commissioner of Agriculture Dave Pearce and President of the Shrimp Festival Ass'n. and also of the Gulf Coast Shrimp Producers Ass'n. Jack Johanson look on.



*Follow us through
these six pages
remembering Louisiana's*

S U M M E R



Seashells, pride and joy of beachcombers all over the world.



Beachcombers all—the shrimp boat and the surf bathers.



Bring the family. A quickly erected "beach shanty" like this one will shelter the little ones from the sun.



Beachcombing

by Fred Webert and Claude Gresham



You find a bottle, now encrusted with colorful barnacles, and your imagination runs rampant with ideas as to who tossed it in the water, and when, and where.



Convenient driftwood to lean on, a salty breeze in your face, and an unexcelled panorama to feast your eyes upon—what more can the beach hiker ask for!

The beach would not be complete without the scurrying sand crab.



R T I M E



The starts in the outboard hydroplane classes were unusually good, with most of the boats bunched up and going at full throttle when the gun sounded.

False River June 27

Races

Sponsored by
Baton Rouge Boat Club



Crowds lined the banks of the stream for more than half a mile. Sandwiches and cold drinks were served and excellent parking facilities were available.

Motorboat Regatta

by Hurley Campbell



The "Flying Cloud", driven by nationally famous Bobby Bourcq of New Orleans, was winner of the free-for-all inboard race. It is shown here leading the "Screaming Eagle" across the finish line by two lengths.



The racers 'pits' were the scene of continuous activity throughout the day as the contestants constantly adjusted boats and motors to get maximum performance.

It takes a bit of bouncing and shifting of weight to get the light hulls on top of the water when the motors are opened. Once the boats level off they throw a surprisingly small wake.





Mrs. L. D. Young, Jr., Mrs. Harry Gates, and Mrs. John Blanchard seem to be enjoying the food just as did everyone else. At the right is Mrs. Johnson, the wife of Dr. Johnson, prominent Shreveport sportsman.



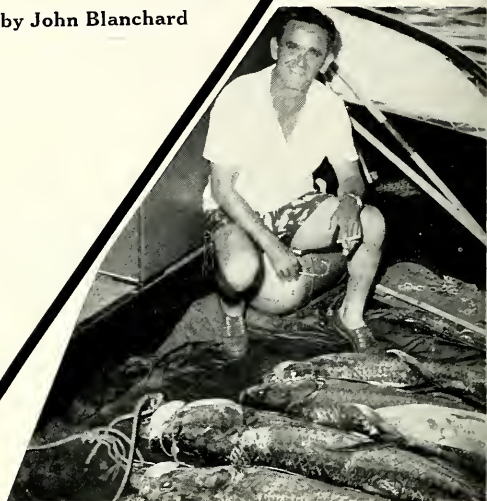
Federation president Harry Gates, Director L. D. Young, Jr., and Shreveport club president Percy Brown collaborate on the victuals.

Ranger Captain Dewey Farrar handles the fish-frying chores for more than 500 people.



Caddo Parish Wildlife Association June 25

by John Blanchard



Grand Isle July 22, 23, 24

ROD



All eyes are on the scales as another tarpon is weighed in at Grand Isle.



Barbecue

Rapides Parish Wildlife
Association
June 12

by Claude Gresham



"Swing your pardner."

An unusually nice feature provided by the Rapides club was continuous movie showing of cartoons and Louisiana features to keep adults and children entertained.



First sailfish off Cameron during 1954 was this 5' 11" fish taken by Roy Andrus, Lake Charles. This fish weighed 40 lbs. and was taken on a jig.

EOS

Cameron
July 3, 4, 5



Dan Timmons, Treas.; Bascombe Gremillion, Jr., V-Pres.; 'Country' Davis, Pres.; and M. W. Gentry, barbecue chairman, deserve much praise for their handling of the event.

Top winner was G. T. Howard, with this huge 148 lb. "grande ecaille". The fish was 81¼ inches long.



Ted Price and his 116 lb. tarpon which took second place.



Terrell Wocsley, with his 102 lb. 3rd place winner.



Chowtime!





The South Louisiana Skeet Club range is located on Hwy. 30 just above the west end of the Mississippi River bridge, New Orleans. The public is invited to shoot here on Wednesday,



day, Saturday, and Sunday afternoons. An air-conditioned clubhouse and other conveniences are now being installed, making this one of the nicest ranges in the country.

SKEET

SPRING FIESTA OPEN

APRIL 23, 24, 25 - NEW ORLEANS

A University of Texas freshman from Galveston, Lee Henslee, again found the South Louisiana Skeet Club right to his liking to win the coveted all gauge championship of the fifth annual Spring Fiesta Open April 23-25. Lee powdered 150 straight targets in the New Orleans classic to finish two birds ahead of his nearest competitor, John Naylor of the host club, who won the state championship.

Frank B. Williams, president of the host club, won both the state and Fiesta twenty gauge with 75 straight, and the state .410 gauge with 67 x 75 and high over-all for both divisions with 359 x 375. Jack Lovett, Jr., of Montgomery, Ala. again dominated with the little guns, winning the Fiesta small bore with 73 and sub-small with

69. Camille Cazedessus of Baton Rouge won the state small gauge with 72 after a shoot-off with Henry Alcus of New Orleans.

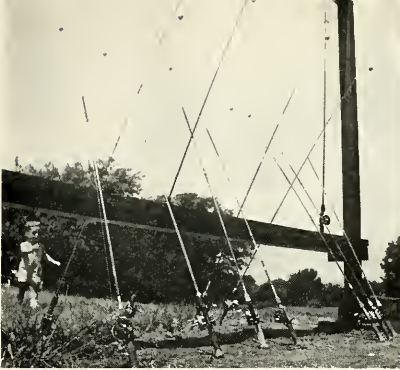
M/Sgt. R. B. Reay of Carswell Air Force Base and W. M. Mitchell of Houston had 294 x 300 for the Open two-man team championship, one above the score that won the state award for Williams and Frank Moreno of New Orleans.

As always in the past, the Spring Fiesta Open, this year combined with the state championship, proved one of the most enjoyable tournaments on the early calendar and attracted a fine array of competitors from all over Louisiana, Texas, Arkansas, Alabama, and Mississippi.

Youth will out, as seventeen-year-old Lee Henslee proved by smashing 150 straight to take the all-gauge.

Mrs. C. A. McDowell, Jr., of Shreveport, prepares to grind one up out of the station eight low houses. She has been Louisiana state champion in the women's division for a number of years.





They're never too young or too old—for participating in casting contests.



The Houston team, led by Williams with a perfect score, took the team trophy. Left to right, S. L. Hood (98), Toby Whitby (98), A. D. Thomas (93), R. H. Femster (96), and Roland Williams (100).

SKISH

SOUTHEASTERN CASTING CHAMPIONSHIP

New Orleans

June 19-20, 1954

Event	Winner	Score	Club
Dry Fly Accuracy.....	C. A. Rigamer.....	99-97	New Orleans
Skish Fly Accuracy.....	C. A. Rigamer.....	92	New Orleans
Wet Fly Accuracy.....	C. A. Rigamer.....	99	New Orleans
Skish Bait Dstnce.....	Roland Williams.....	252 ft.	Houston
Skish Fly Distance.....	C. A. Rigamer.....	140 ² / ₃ ft.	New Orleans
³ / ₈ oz. Accuracy.....	Roland Williams.....	98	Houston
¹ / ₄ oz. Spinning.....	R. A. Feemster.....	62	Houston
Skish Bait Accuracy.....	Roland Williams.....	88	Houston
⁵ / ₈ oz. Accuracy.....	Roland Williams.....	99-96-98	Houston
Team Accuracy.....	C. S. Rigamer.....	485	Houston

The Junior team from New Orleans turned in a remarkable 93 average. Left to right, Benje Fontaine (96), Butch Burvant (87), Chalon Fontaine (90), Janice Voitier (94), and Jack LaNouse (98).



Roland Williams finally edged New Orleans' Merlin Remmers in the important ⁵/₈ accuracy event. They tied with 99 each in the regular event, and are shown here in the second shoot-off which Williams took 98 to 97.



How To Apply For Pass-A-Loutre Duck Hunting

The July-August *Louisiana CONSERVATIONIST* carried a story on how the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission plans to operate the Pass-a-Loutre public hunting area during the forthcoming hunting season. The intent of the Commission is to put forth every effort to make this an outstanding waterfowl shooting area. It is realized that many problems have

to be solved, but the general plans for the development and utilization of Pass-a-Loutre as outlined in the *CONSERVATIONIST* are progressing nicely.

For the convenience of those who failed to see the first story and to refresh your memory, here is a list of the plans under which the area will be managed.

- 1—The area will be opened to public hunting through applications.
- 2—Transportation from Venice to the hunting ground and return to Venice will be furnished.
- 3—Bed, cooking utensils, stove, fuel and lights will be furnished, but no linens.
- 4—One duck boat, paddles and decoys for every two hunters will be furnished.
- 5—Camps and blinds will be assigned by lottery.
- 6—Hunting will be permitted on Saturday and Sunday and Tuesday and Wednesday each week.
- 7—Each hunt will be two days, with 50 men on each hunt.
- 8—No hunting will be permitted after noon each day.
- 9—Applicants may apply for more than one hunt, but not more than once each week.
- 10—A fee of \$2.00 per hunt will be charged each hunter.
- 11—All hunters will be required to sign an agreement releasing the Commission from responsibility for any bodily harm or personal loss and agreeing to pay for any Commission property lost or destroyed.
- 12—Permits may be transferred from one person to another.

HOW TO APPLY

1. Make application direct to Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission, 126 Civil Courts Bldg., New Orleans 16, Louisiana.
2. You may apply in a group not to exceed six persons, but each person must be named in the application.
3. No person may submit more than one application for each week. If the name of any person is received in more than one application for the same week, it will be disqualified.
4. You must make application for the hunts one month in advance of the date of the hunt (see table below).
5. All applications must be made by letter **THROUGH THE MAILS.**
6. Applications for each particular hunt must be postmarked during the application dates for that hunt as listed in the table below.
7. Be sure to specify the dates you wish to hunt.
8. Be sure to indicate whether or not you will accept the other hunt during the week of your request if your preferred dates are filled.
9. The quota for each hunt will be selected by lottery.

All applicants will be notified within one week after the application closing date whether or not they have been selected for the hunt. Those who are chosen will then be notified to forward \$2.00 by check or money order (no cash), after which their permit will be sent to them. There can be no refunds, but you may transfer your permit to another hunter in the event you are unable to participate.

It will be necessary to follow a very close schedule to insure a smooth operation. All hunters must be in Venice at Fitzgerald's Wharf ready to board the boat to Pass-a-Loutre at 1:00 p.m. the day prior to each

hunt. Hunting will stop at 12:00 noon each day and the hunters must be ready to leave the camp for return to Venice by 2:00 p.m.

No person will be allowed to board the boat at Venice without a Pass-a-Loutre permit, a valid hunting license, and a duck stamp (if over 15 years of age). No persons under 18 years of age will be allowed, unless accompanied by parent or guardian. No alcoholic beverages will be allowed on the boat or at the camp. Simple camp rules must be observed. Sorry, but due to the type of facilities, no ladies can be accepted.

DATE OF HUNT	DATES APPLICATION RECEIVED (Letter must be postmarked between these dates.)
Nov. 6-7	Oct. 1-7
Nov. 9-10	Oct. 8-14
13-14	" "
16-17	Oct. 15-21
20-21	" "
23-24	Oct. 22-28
27-28	" "

DATE OF HUNT	DATES APPLICATION RECEIVED (Letter must be postmarked between these dates.)
Dec. 18-19	Nov. 12-18
21-22	Nov. 19-25
25-26	No Hunt
28-29	Nov. 26-Dec. 2
Jan. 1-2	" "
4-5	Dec. 3-9
8-9	" "

Pick out the date you would like to hunt and make application to the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission by letter through U. S. Mail. It must be postmarked between 12:01 a.m. on the first day opposite the date, but before 11:59 p.m. on the last day.



ST. HELENA WANTS DEER

Pine Grove, La.

I am interested in finding out how we could get our parish stocked with deer. I see in the CONSERVATIONIST where our parish is one of the best habitats for deer; but deer seem to be almost extinct here. Who would I need to contact concerning this matter?

—Ernest L. King.

As you probably know, our deer trapping program has been carried on in this state for a number of years, and we have had a great deal of success with trapping and restocking deer. We have selected the parishes with the best deer range and fewest deer for our first releases; and St. Helena parish is one parish in which we have planned to release deer for the past two years.

We advise that you contact members of your Police Jury and recommend that they pass a resolution to close the northern portion of the parish to deer hunting for a period of five years. After we receive a copy of such a resolution, we will make an attempt to release a breeding population of deer in St. Helena parish as soon as possible.

We ask that you and other interested citizens be patient with us, as our deer trapping is very unpredictable, and the number of deer released each year is governed by our success. I can assure you, however, that we will release deer in St. Helena parish within the next few years.

—Carroll J. Perkins, District Biologist
Louisiana Wild Life & Fisheries
Commission

* * * *

NO GRAB THE 'GATOR

Grand Cane

I enjoy reading your publication to such an extent that am driven to ask that, if possible, you place my name on your mailing list. Have reached the age where fishing is about the only outdoor sport that I can successfully follow, but don't think

even in my prime would have cared to engaged in "gruntin' and grabbin' for 'gators".

The back cover of your current issue makes a fellow want to quit work and go looking for upper Fool's River.

Best wishes for your continued success in publishing the most interesting sports reading that comes my way.

—W. C. Cook

* * * *

WORD FROM THE TICKFAW

Camp Hideaway
Springfield

One day about a month ago I went into Richardson's Hardware Store in Ponchartroula to buy a spray-gun in order to kill some weeds on our property, and Mr. Richardson, said "There's a very good article in this issue of the LOUISIANA CONSERVATIONIST that tells all about killing weeds". Whereupon he got the magazine and cut out the article and gave it to me.

Then he said, "By the way, do you get this magazine? You are entitled to it". I answered, "No". He then proceeded to tear off the flypage and give me your address so I could write and request the magazine.

Mr. Richardson said the only reason he needed the magazine now was because there was a list of books on the last page which he wanted to order; otherwise he would give it to me, as he had finished reading it.

I happened to think that not too long ago, one of our game wardens had come by and chatted with us a while and had taken a snapshot with him and said he hoped to have it put in one of the issues. So we glanced through it and I was happy to find the snapshot on page 14 of the May-June issue, the one entitled, "Bream from the Tickfaw River".

Well—Mr. Richardson said, "Why didn't I just tear the last page off for myself and give you the whole magazine to begin with? You remind me of my wife when

she asks for two dollars to pay the washwoman and ends up with the whole wallet". I thought that very amusing, as I did end up with the whole magazine, even though it was all torn to pieces.

In order to avoid an incident like that again, please put me on your mailing list. I find this magazine very interesting and informative.

Our place is located just below Rome Ferry bridge, and we think it is one of the prettiest places on the river. We'd like for you to get acquainted with it. It is still in its infancy, and all we have to offer so far are nice clean boats and lovely picnic grounds, but we hope to start erecting camps in the near future.

—Mrs. Herman W. Carpenter

* * * *

BOY SCOUTS

Memphis, Tenn.

Upon my return to the office today I found reports of many interesting experiences from the Scouts of Louisiana Councils on the conservation tours made possible by the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission. This was a terrific undertaking, and we know you have gone to much trouble and expense. Undoubtedly it has created a greater interest in conservation and an appreciation of what the great state of Louisiana holds in this field for its citizens.

I want to express to you our deep and genuine appreciation of all that you and your associates have done in making this experience possible.

—Harley E. Erb, Regional Executive
Boy Scouts of America

We sincerely appreciate the favorable comments which have come from the scouting fraternity and parents of the boys who were entertained during the month of July.

I am sorry that all the scouts could not avail themselves of the opportunities offered during this period.

—John Blanchard, Chief
Education and Publicity Division

Field Facts

Devoted to Field Reports from Our Seven Biological Districts

DISTRICT I. Supervisor: Eugene Hastings, Minden

The biggest news from District I this month is that Ray Rogers, acting supervisor, has taken off for the wide open spaces. Ray is now with the Idaho Game & Fish Commission and is living in Council, Idaho. Included in his district are the Snake River and Hell's Canyon. Best wishes to Ray.

That is the situation that now finds me taking over as acting supervisor for District I, at least for the time being. I did get to talk to Ray about an hour and a half before he shoved off for the West, so I've spent most of the past month becoming familiar with District I. Ranger Captain Jack Stanfield has been invaluable in helping me get acquainted. We checked the Bodeau bottoms for proposed waterfowl development, and some pinoak areas look as if they will be very susceptible to management. All of which means that we should have some good duck shooting in this area, once our waterfowl management program is under way.

We also checked the squirrel boxes which have been erected in this district and found the occupants of most of them to be wasps and bees. About ten out of 50 boxes showed some signs of being used by squirrels. We also checked all of the active wood duck boxes.

As seems to be the case over most of the state, prospects for the coming dove season seem to be excellent. Actually, there seem to be more doves this year than at any time since the very good year of 1948. I've been getting many reports around here also that the squirrel crop this year is the best in a long time. Deer are definitely on the increase, too.

* * * *

DISTRICT II. Supervisor: Raymond Moody, West Monroe

Well, the last of the Boy Scouts, to whom the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission played host this month, have gone. District II personnel are a little worse off for wear, but we are all happy and hope the boys reaped some benefit from their outing.

Those who know Mr. Curtis L. Hollis, the Refuge Supervisor of the Union Game Management Area, may now refer to him as "Hot Rod Bill." Two days with the first group of Scouts, and conservative Bill had his jeep stripped down, with the windshield lowered and tied down over the hood. Bill's only comment, when approached on the subject, was, "I have always been

a boy at heart and am really enjoying the outing."

The Scouts assigned to District II were billeted at the overnight cabin on the Union area, under the immediate care of Bill Hollis. No casualties occurred, unless we consider Bill's inability to rise from bed to greet the next group of Scouts who were to be guests of the Commission during the last week of July. Mr. Flavil Hollis, District Biologist, had to take over during that week and pinch hit for Bill. Received a letter from Dr. Virgil S. Gully stating that Mr. Curtis Hollis is suffering from sciatic neuritis. Let's face it, Bill; even though you are a boy at heart you are getting old.

Although Ranger Dan Mayo is on leave, he accompanied us on a fish sampling project of a private reservoir in Morehouse parish. Mr. Whitaker, from Lake Village, Ark., conducted the fish sample under the supervision of the district supervisor and Ranger Mayo. Mr. Whitaker mixed and poured the rotenone; Dan distributed the mixture with an outboard motor; the author took pictures, and Flavil D. Hollis patrolled the levee in an attempt to keep the Boy Scouts out of the water until the sample was completed. Flavil put one in mind of the proverbial mother hen.

Two potential waterfowl areas for public shooting grounds were checked in District II during the month, and there is a good possibility of securing them.

An inspection of Wham Brake disclosed an abundance of duck food present, and provided the water does not cover these plants prior to the maturing of the seed, duck hunters should be able to enjoy some good shooting on this area during the coming season.

Dove trapping success was negligible during the first half of the month but picked up sharply during the latter half. Mr. Charles Baur, who has been operating the dove traps at Selman Field, caught 42 birds in one day, with a total catch of new doves for the month being 101. Eight re-traps were recorded and released, and two nestling doves were banded. I would like to urge everyone to be on the lookout for banded doves this season. Regardless of the number of birds banded, our work is futile if you sportsmen do not give us your aid in reporting the information on the banded birds killed.

* * * *

DISTRICT III. Supervisor: John D. Newsom, Alexandria

Interest in the approaching hunting seasons is again gradually picking up as a

result of the mid-summer slump in fishing activity, the announcement of hunting regulations on some game species and the many reports on waterfowl breeding conditions in Canada. The nimrods will be worked up to fever pitch by September 16 when, with the opening of the first half of the split dove season, the forthcoming long hunting season becomes a reality.

While we are on the subject of dove hunting, it seems as though our dove development project on Old Camp Caliborne is not going to do as well as we had hoped. Hot, dry weather has apparently prevented germination of dove weed seeds on the areas, and unless we get a lot of rain within the next few days we can not expect too much benefit from our efforts there this year. However, the natural stands of dove weed are quite extensive and there should be some good shooting on the area during both halves of the open season.

Dove trapping success is still high at two of our three trapping stations; 467 doves were banded during the past two months. Rowland Vernon has just about solved a crow depredation problem at one trapping station with his trusty "two-holer". This was our first experience with crows killing doves in traps.

Although the pine mast crop is apparently not up to par this year, squirrels started working on the available supply in mid-July. They have also started to work on hickory nuts in some places, which is considerably earlier than usual. The prospects for a good acorn crop are not too good at this time; the hot dry weather has caused a large portion of the crop to be cast off. The squirrel crop looks good, however, from all the reports received this far.

In an effort to alleviate the submergent vegetation situation on Iatt Lake, the Grant Parish Wildlife Federation Club cut the dam across Bayou Darrow about mid-July so that the lake could drain and remain in that condition for about sixty-nine days. Later on when the lake bed dries up, we hope to get a bulldozer in there for a few days to clear out some of the button-willow thickets and open up some more boat roads. Duck shooting should be excellent there this winter.

On Catahoula Lake, in cooperation with personnel of District IV, we have finally gotten started on clearing out the dense stands of water elm and swamp privet in Mosquito bend and Big bend. This was formerly some of the prime duck feeding areas on the entire lake, but has not been available to waterfowl for a number of years. These areas will be returned to the productive list when the clearing is completed.

We hope the people who put the poison in Spring Creek enjoyed the fish they killed, especially those that died all the way down to Cocodrie; we also hope that one of the Rangers will be looking down their throats the next time they do something like that.

DISTRICT IV.

**Supervisor: Richard K. Yancey,
Ferriday**

Anyone interested in attracting ducks to their favorite shooting ground should go out to Catahoula Lake about now and look over the preparations that old mother nature is making to produce what usually turns out to be the best natural waterfowl food supply in the state. The water has receded from the mud flats there and a fine crop of wild millet and chufa is in the making. It's just another good example to prove that if you provide the right growing conditions, you won't have to worry about planting the weeds and herbs the ducks prefer; they'll come in on their own.

By the way, we plan to move a bulldozer into the upper end of Catahoula Lake within a few days to set back the water elm and swamp privet that has encroached on Mosquito Bend over the past 25 years.

The first fawns began to appear on the Caldwell Game Management Area on May 20, and this is the earliest authentic date received as yet. A word of interest here is that an excellent deer population has built up there in the past three or four years, proving how well deer respond to restocking and protection. As a matter of fact, a good spread of deer from this one area into upper La Salle and Catahoula parishes has been taking place for the past year or two. All the people have to do now in this region is to give those few deer their full support and protection. Given a fair chance, they will soon build up a population that will rival the great deer herds in Madison and Tensas parishes, because they certainly have a fine deer range.

Last fall's overcup and hickory mast crop is still an inch deep over the Bougere Swamp portion of lower Concordia parish. Because of this we are having a tough time baiting squirrels into the traps for our tagging operation. On the Caldwell Game Management Area the woods hogs finished cleaning up last fall's mast crop several months ago, and it certainly shows up in the way the squirrels take bait. Welch Lively, working with fewer squirrels on Caldwell and only five traps, has tagged more squirrels than Gilbert Sanson has in lower Concordia Parish with 55 traps. Having the ground littered with acorns is great for producing a bumper squirrel crop, but it's certainly tough on a tagging operation.

The dove population is really looking up in District IV. If they will just linger around 'til the season opens, there should be excellent shooting. We are operating five trapping and banding stations, and it is requested that all dove hunters be on the lookout for banded birds this fall.

* * * *

DISTRICT V.

**Supervisor: Robert E. Murry,
DeRidder**

All indications point to a bumper crop

of quail for this season. We have seen more and larger broods of young than in a good many years.

We have had Chief Biologist Harry Schafer and his crew of Brown, Burns and Abernathy doing a population survey of Old River in Beauregard Parish. Several spectators expressed surprise at the large number of shad counted in the sample. This body of water provides recreation for a large number of people, most of whom have personally told the writer that they are dissatisfied with fishing success on Old River recently.

Our dove food plots are showing excellent growth as a result of recent rains. There is now some doubt that the reseeded peas will mature and shatter before the dove season opens. The reseeded sorghum, however, is sure to be ready for the doves come September 16th.

Speaking of doves, our random road counts have shown an increase from two and a half doves per hundred miles in March to 14 doves per hundred miles in July. We have witnessed the consolidation of many small flocks in July and a build-up of the population along the Gulf in Cameron Parish.

Mr. Bass, of West Bay G.M.A., continues to be the "squirrel trappingest" man in the state, and is now trying with Sansone of District IV to see who can catch the most wood rats in his squirrel traps.

Sure hope to be able to report that fish are biting on Six-Mile Creek next month.

* * * *

DISTRICT VI.

Supervisor: J. B. Kidd, Opelousas

The work in District 6, for the past month, has been rather routine. Seven female swamp rabbits were collected; one thousand miles of dove random road counts were made; two mourning dove call counts were made; eight new doves were banded; two twenty-acre study areas were censused for squirrels; and four cat squirrels were collected and examined for research purposes.

While traveling throughout the district one can't help but notice the large and numerous flocks of doves that are now present. Doves are especially noted in areas where the farmers have used the practice of "hogging off" their corn in order to fatten their hogs for the market. This practice scatters a considerable amount of whole grain corn on the ground and doves naturally flock into these areas to feed on the waste grain. From the way things look now, it is believed that doves will be abundant when the season opens September 16.

Squirrels are also numerous now. On one twenty-acre study area in Pointe Coupee Parish, 12 cat squirrels were seen on the regular monthly census of that area. Last month only 4 squirrels were seen on the same area.

DISTRICT VII.

**Supervisor: Kenneth C. Smith,
Baton Rouge**

The two biologists in our district, Henry D. Roberts and myself, conducted the usual routine activities, which include running two squirrel census strips per month, two coo-counts, operating a dove banding station and supervising another, collecting rabbit and squirrel specimens for the research projects, checking bicolor strips and squirrel nesting boxes, and looking after two game management areas, one in Livingston Parish and one in Tangipahoa.

Plans for the next few months include the acquisition of land, by lease or purchase, for additional game management areas. The two primary areas sought at present are in St. Helena Parish, which shows excellent deer and turkey possibilities, and in St. Tammany Parish, a potentially good waterfowl area. It is expected that if the area in St. Helena becomes available, small game hunting will be permitted, while deer and turkey will continue to enjoy a closed season until a suitable population can be established. There is at present a fair turkey population but no deer. With proper management the turkey flocks could be increased to the point where many people could knock off a big gobbler, whereas only a few are now being killed illegally. Deer would have to be restocked, but with the success the Commission has enjoyed along this line a good white-tail population would be virtually assured within five to eight years.

Beaver trapping is one of the most interesting phases of our work. The animals are taken in a Bailey-type live trap, a big purse-looking affairs which is opened out and laid flat in the path of the beaver. The trigger mechanism projects vertically and when touched by the beaver causes the trap to close instantly; just how quickly is illustrated by the fact that Howard Blount has taken a bass and a catfish that happened to bump the trigger just right. Since the traps are set in shallow water, the beaver can poke his head in the portion which is out of water and breathe.

Sometimes a member of the colony becomes fascinated by that strange assortment of rods and wire mesh and proceeds to build it into his dam. Just last month Howard had to tear out a whole dam to retrieve one of his traps, and to his surprise he found a live beaver inside. Luckily his brethren had left a tiny bit of the trap above the water, so Mr. Beaver was removed unharmed and taken to a new home.

Many people are surprised to learn that an adult beaver will average 35 to 40 pounds, and Howard has taken them up to 65 pounds—quite an animal. These critters are very secretive in their habits, and it is a rare individual who gets a look at one under natural conditions. They can be ornery rascals when there are good timber trees to gnaw on. THE END



by
Charley Bosch
 Executive Secretary
 Louisiana Wildlife Federation

with the **FEDERATION**

IS YOUR CLUB DOMINATED BY A CLIQUE?

Word has been received by the Board of Directors of your club that it is run by a clique. Upon investigation, we find this statement is true.

Furthermore, we find the clique is composed of faithful members who are present at every meeting, who accept appointments to committees, who give willingly of their time, energies and efforts, and who sincerely believe that the more one puts into his club, the more he will get out of it.

There is no question that the enthusiasm, responsibility and efforts of these members are of inestimable value to your club. We would, therefore, suggest that you join this clique. It is not a difficult matter to do so; in fact, it is very easy.

Begin by attending meetings regularly; take a more lively interest in club activities; make helpful, constructive suggestions, and accept responsibilities to serve on committees. Show a continual interest in all affairs pertaining to your club.

Before you realize it, you will be a member of the clique, and you would be surprised to know how anxious they are to have you.

—Ed Harper

OUACHITA UNIT STAGES BOX SUPPER

An auctioned box supper was held recently by the Ouachita Unit of the Federation. The gala affair sparked by a professional auctioneer doing the selling attracted almost five hundred persons. No one but the auctioneer knew who prepared the box lunch and when a man was high bidder the lady who prepared that particular lunch became the dinner partner of the high bidder, J. B. Thoman, publicity

chairman said. Funds derived from the event will be used for the propagation of wild life in the area.

Jake E. Benton, Unit President advised that five new members were elected to the Board of Directors. Incoming Board Members are Floyd Martin, J. N. McBeth, Jack Rushing, A. E. Jones, and J. B. Thoman. The city of Monroe domicile of the Unit will be the site of the next annual Convention of the Louisiana Wildlife Federation which will be held February 25-27, 1955.

FEDERATION TO SPONSOR STATE DUCK CALLING CONTEST

Once again the Federation will sponsor the State Duck Calling Contest as part of the program of the International Rice Festival. It's not too long to duck season, and the second half of the breeding season must be a success if we are to get fair shooting, but plans for the duck calling contest are now being completed. The Federation committee headed by Malcom Martin of Houma is working on the project. Others on the committee include: Preston Mauboules, Crowley; Isaac Higginbotham, Lafayette; Kearnie LaFleur, Ville Platte; R. J. Sullivan, Vinton; Roland LeBlanc, Abbeville; Ernest Guidry, Jennings; and Edwin Howard, Welsh.

It is hoped that the majority of the clubs in the Federation will stage their duck calling contest prior to the state championship event which is to be held Wednesday, October 27th so that the various club winners can compete in Crowley for the State title. Mr. J. W. Barnett, the 1954 President of the International Rice Festival has promised "to co-operate and work with the Federation Committee in every way to make it a huge success" and from past experience we know he means that and more. One way to forget the hot weather is to get out the old caller and relax in a comfortable chair, with decoys spread on "mylady's" hard wood floors and start practicing with that highball and feed calls. Who knows, you may be crowned, possibly, as the State Duck Calling Champion.

TERREBONNE SPORTSMEN'S LEAGUE PLANS RED FISH RODEO

Louis Routier, President of the Terrebonne Club, is this year's chairman of the annual Red Fish Rodeo. Last year about 1,100 sportsmen participated in the contest and this year's event should attract even more contestants. The Rodeo will be held sometime in October, possibly the 8th, 9th, and 10th, but the actual dates

are to be set at a meeting of the committee in mid August. The rodeo will run for three days, and is limited to waters in Terrebonne Parish, long a favorite haunt of fishermen from all over the state. The admission fee last year was \$3.00 and it probably will be the fee this year. Anyone may enter and compete for the many prizes which are now being gathered by the committee. This year will be the fifth annual Red Fish Rodeo. See you there.

WELSH ROD AND GUN CLUB FORMED

Teppey Daboval is the President of the newly organized club in Welsh. Emerson Walker serves as Vice-President, Edwin Howard is the Secretary, and Teal Walker the Treasurer. The club set a record by signing up over 300 members within 30 days after becoming activated. Assisting at the organizational meeting was Harry Gates, former 7th District Vice-President of the Federation; Russell P. Davidson, President of the Calcasieu Rod and Gun Club; and Ernest Guidry, President of the Jeff Davis Rod and Gun Club. President Daboval extends a most cordial invitation to all sportsmen in the Welsh area to join the club and participate in the many activities now being planned.

PASS-A-LOUTRE SHOOTING AREA OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

The Federation's Pass-a-Loutre Committee after several meetings with Commission personnel have worked out a system to operate the area as a public shooting grounds. It was a lot of work, took a lot of time but the goal was reached. Complete details for making application to hunt the area and details for operating the public shooting grounds is carried elsewhere in this issue. Please read the story on Pass-a-Loutre carefully and if you wish to hunt there, comply with the simple directions.

The Federation Committee, sparked by Chairman Lloyd Abadie, also President of the New Orleans Sportsmen's League wishes to take this opportunity to thank the Commission; Director L. D. Young; Dr. Lyle St. Amant; Carroll Perkins; and George Moore, Chief of the Fish and Game Division for their splendid cooperation and understanding. We feel that this is just a starter, and in the near future many more public hunting and fishing areas will be acquired and developed. This achievement certainly deserves a few thank-you notes, and we of the Federation would appreciate it if you would express your thanks to the Commission in writing. The address: 126 Civil Courts Bldg., New Orleans, La. To one and all that will take time out to write the Commission—our sincerest thanks.

SPORTSMEN'S CLUB FORMED IN OBERLIN

At the organization meeting of the Oberlin Sportsmen's Club, Mr. L. A. Elliott was elected President; S. A. Musselwhite,

Vice-President; and Lee Chaumont, Secretary-Treasurer. In a few short months the club membership has exceeded 200. Careful plans have been laid to combat pollution in the area, which is an area-wide problem. Welcome into the Federation, may your goal be accomplished!

**IBERIA FISHING RODEO
OCTOBER 16-17**

The third annual Iberia Parish Rod and Gun Club Fishing Rodeo will open at day-break October 16 and continue until 5 P.M. October 17th. Prizes will be awarded for the largest redfish, speckled trout, sheepshead, flounder and croaker. This year pompano has been added to the list of eligible game fish and to create additional interest in a prize will be awarded for the largest fish of any species weighed in during the two day rodeo.

James Ledbetter and Joseph Bourg were appointed as general co-chairmen of the rodeo by Louie Cyr, Club President. Other committee chairmen appointed were: Rules Committee, Alfred Fortier, Prize Committee, Joseph Bourg; Registration Committee, Cenas Gaines; Boating and Safety Committee, Ted Bonin; and Publicity Committee,

Jim Wynn and Donald Bonin. Complete details of the Fishing Rodeo can be obtained by writing James Ledbetter, P.O. Box 193, New Iberia, La.

VERNON FISH FRY A SUCCESS

The annual fish fry of the Vernon Parish Wildlife League was held recently at Talbot's Lake with approximately 700 members and their families attending. Roy Hooker, League President, presented a reel to Bernice Cabra of Hornbeck who won the prize by catching and donating the greatest number of pounds of fish for the event. Ike Glover of Leesville was second place winner and received a casting rod.

President Hooker introduced State Representative F. E. Hernandez former President of the League and the Federation who then introduced the other distinguished guests which included U. S. Congressman George Long; Harry Gates, President of the Federation; T. E. Banks, District Vice-President of the Federation; and Capt. Earl Nugent of the La. Wild Life and Fisheries Commission. These officers commended the members for practicing the principles of the organization, and urged that they continue to "preach and practice the gospel of sound conservation."

Lespedeza Bicolor Requests Due Now

Improve your quail hunting! Now is the time to place your order for lespedeza bicolor seedlings. There is no charge for these plants.

There has been a change in procedure for obtaining seedlings in three of our seven biological districts. Those people in the following parishes should submit their requests to the District Supervisor and not to the Soil Conservation Service or County Agent:

District 4—District Supervisor: Richard K. Yancey
Box 107, Ferriday, La.

Caldwell	Franklin
Catahoula	LaSalle
Concordia	Madison
Tensas	

District 5—District Supervisor: Robert E. Murry
Box 504, DeRidder, La.

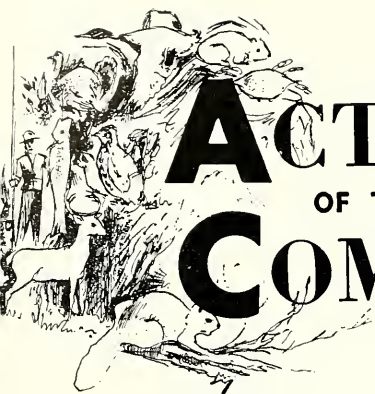
Acadia	Cameron
Allen	Jefferson
Beauregard	Davis
Calcasieu	Vermilion
	Vernon

District 6—District Supervisor: Joseph B. Kidd
386 W. Vine, Opelousas, La.

Ascension	Lafourche
Assumption	Pointe Coupee
Avoyelles	St. Landry
Iberia	St. Martin
Iberville	St. Mary
Lafayette	Terrebonne
West Baton Rouge	

In the parishes not listed the procedure for obtaining planting material will remain the same as in the past, by making your request to the County Agent or Soil Conservation Service.

All requests should be in not later than November 1, 1954



ACTION OF THE COMMISSION

JUNE 22, 1954 MEETING

J. E. Sartain of Baton Rouge was authorized to rear, ship and sell domesticated quail in public places for consumption or public sale, as provided by Section 171 of Act 56.

The seven-member Commission voted approval of a bill in the legislature which would provide \$100,000 for getting fresh water through Bayou LaMer to oyster bedding grounds.

A letter from the engineering firm of J. J. Krebs & Sons, New Orleans, informed the agency that only 59 per cent of the lessees of oyster bedding grounds could be contacted during the survey work. Following a discussion, the members agreed to postpone action regarding the appearance of lessees for survey work.

Director L. D. Young, Jr. explained the state audit report and explained that the accounting section would be completely reorganized July 1.

Following a lengthy discussion, the severance tax on shells was raised from seven cents per cubic yard to 12 cents per cubic yard.

Shell removal permits were issued to Ayers Material Company for Lakes Pontchartrain, Lake Maurepas and Borgne; W. T. Burton Company for Sabine Lake; Grizafic Dredging Company for Little Lake, Lake Salvador, Lake Pontchartrain, Lake Maurepas, Lake Borgne, Lake Palourde and Lake Des Allemands; Guarisco Construction Company for Little Lake, Lake Palourde, and Lake Verret; Leftwich Company, Inc., for Lake Salvador and Lake Palourde; Stevens and Company, Inc., for Little Lake, Lake Salvador, Lake Pontchartrain, Lake Maurepas and Lake Borgne. A permit was also issued to the Twin City Gravel Company, Inc., to mine sand and/or gravel from parts of Boeuf River, and a permit was issued to Robert L. Gwinn, Jr., to take sand and gravel from West Pearl River between the Highway Bridge and Route II and U. S. Government Lock No. 1.

Approved was a motion to have Commission representatives check what effect dredgings of canals have on or near oyster bedding grounds and what action may be taken for prohibition of such dredgings.

The body approved publication or issuance of the Gabrielson (Dr. Ira N., president of Wildlife Management Institute) Report to interested persons.

Unanimous approval was given to a motion to employ a "top-flight" fisheries biologist for research work in a fisheries division.

The Commission meeting adjourned to meet July 22 at Grand Isle during the Grand Isle Tarpon Rodeo.

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JULY 22, 1954 MEETING

In line with the Commission's policy of periodically holding meetings around the state so that more people may attend, and in connection with the Grand Isle Tarpon Rodeo, the regular July meeting of the Commission was held at the home of Mr. G. J. Autin at Grand Isle.

Several representatives of shell industries appeared before the Commission protesting the 12-cent tax imposed by the Commission at its June meeting. Speakers for the shell industries included Mr. Paul Jahncke, representing Jahncke Service, Inc.; Capt. J. R. Ayers, Jr., representing Ayers Material Company; Robert Lawes, attorney for W. T. Burton Co., Inc.; Allen Kimball, attorney for Mathieson Chemical Corp.; James Howell, Vice-President of Mathieson Chemical Corp., and Mr. Pat Theard, representing the Oyster Shell Products Company. It was moved by Mr. Brookshire and seconded by Mr. Beeson that the resolution adopted at the June meeting, setting the shell tax at 12¢ per cubic yard, and other regulations pertaining thereto be reaffirmed and agreed upon by the Commission. This motion was adopted by a five to one vote.

A request was received from the Franklin Parish Police Jury, Winnsboro, for approval of the appointment of members of the Turkey Creek Game and Fish Preserve, as follows: Mr. E. H. McCaa, Mr. C. L. Sanders, and Mr. Harry Clark. The

Commission unanimously approved the appointment of these commissioners.

Two resolutions were received from the Natchitoches Parish Police Jury relative to Cane River Lake. The first provided that the police jury enter into a contract with Mr. J. H. Wailes to seine or net all shad and rough fish from Cane River. The commercial fish taken in this operation will be sold at the market price, and proceeds will go into the treasury of the police jury. This will help defray the costs of the project, which is designed to improve sport fishing in the lake. A second resolution called for the levying of a special \$1.00 license for fishing on Cane River Lake to help defray expenses of the management program. After a full discussion, the Commission did not approve the \$1.00 special fishing license on Cane River Lake, but instructed the Fish and Game Division to cooperate fully with the Cane River Game & Fish Commission and the Natchitoches Parish Police Jury in carrying out this project of clearing Cane River Lake of undesirable species and improving fishing conditions there in every way possible.

Director Young presented a resume of the recommendations of Dr. Ira Gabrielson, indicating therein those recommendations which have already been carried out, those in the stage of being planned or worked on, and those for future administrative or commission action.

Chairman Glassell suggested that further study of Dr. Gabrielson's report be made and that the division chiefs be requested to furnish the Director with a long-range program and plan for their respective divisions.

Mr. George Moore, chief of the Fish and Game Division, recommended game seasons for the coming year. These were approved and will be found listed elsewhere in this issue.

Senator Smith Guthrie from Livingston Parish, and several representatives of the fishing industry, requested the Commission to overlook enforcement of the law which prohibited the taking of turtle eggs. They were advised that the Commission had no authority to change laws as set by the Legislature.

Mr. Joe Compagno requested the Commission to give consideration to granting permission for the training of dogs out of season but was informed that this too required legislation and that the commission had no such authority.

Mr. Buquet requested information as to the possible damages being done to oyster reefs on the Point-au-Fer area. Mr. McConnell stated that tests were being made at that time and apparently little or no damage was occurring. This damage was possible, however, Mr. McConnell stated, and further studies would be made. He added that Mr. Coogan was analyzing water samples which had been taken from the area.

Pollution Control Progress

By Frank Coogan

Corney Creek— a Case History in Pollution Abatement

Starting in 1937 and continuing for the following few years, there was carried out the development of a number of oil fields located in Union and Columbia Counties, in southwest Arkansas.

Among the fields discovered and drilled up were the Schuler Field in Union County and the Atlanta, Magnolia and Village Fields in Columbia County.

In 1948, there were about 425 wells in the four fields with about 5,700,000 barrels of brine per year being produced from three of the four fields. All brine from the Magnolia Field was being disposed of underground.

While a large portion of the 5,700,000 barrels of brine that were being brought to the surface with the oil was being disposed of in injection wells, there was enough being discharged into surface drains to cause the gross pollution of Corney Creek and Three Creeks and their tributaries.

Early in 1949 a group of sportsmen in the Corney Area appealed to the Honorable Otto E. Passman, alleging that the objectionable pollution of Corney Creek was attributed to the brine discharge from Arkansas Oil Fields.

Congressman Passman contacted both the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Public Health Service in regard to the matter. There were several meetings held by representatives of these two organizations, and it was finally decided to carry out a field investigation on July 13 and 14, 1949.

Cooperating in the field study were personnel from U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Public Health Service, Corps of Engineers, Arkansas State Health Department, Arkansas Fish and Game Commission and Louisiana Stream Control Commission.

The particular interest of the group was to determine the cause or causes of the intermittent fish kills that had occurred from time to time in Corney Creek above Corney Lake.

In September 1949, Hayse H. Black, Senior Sanitary Engineer with the Public Health Service submitted a report titled

"Arkansas Oil Field Wastes as Related to Lake Corney and Corney Creek Pollution in Vicinity of Arkansas-Louisiana State Line".

There were some twelve conclusions set forth in the report, but by and large it was determined that the oil field waste discharges were a contributing factor to the pollution of Corney Creek and that there appeared to be some correlation between heavy rainfall in the Corney Creek watershed and the mass fish kills in the creeks, especially when the rain was preceded by a long dry spell.

A year or two after this investigation the Arkansas Legislature passed an act setting up the Arkansas Water Pollution Control Commission. In November of 1952 this Commission held a hearing in Magnolia, Arkansas to hear testimony regarding the effects of brine discharges on Corney Creek and its tributaries. Some time after the hearing the Commission issued Cease and Desist orders to those companies whose brine discharges were causing the pollution of the creeks.

At about the same time, Floyd B. James, Chairman of the Special Pollution Committee of the Lincoln Parish Wildlife Association, wrote a letter to the Public Health Service requesting that that agency take such steps as were authorized under the provisions of Public Law 845, the Federal Anti-Pollution Act, to stop the pollution of Corney Creek, an interstate stream. Mr. James was advised at that time that the Arkansas Water Pollution Control Commission was making a real effort to clear up the pollution complained of and that under the provisions of the Federal Act it would be necessary to await the outcome of the state's efforts.

In June of 1953, some of the oil operators who had received Cease and Desist orders covering brine discharge operations appealed these orders to courts of competent jurisdiction.

As time went by and the brine pollution continued, the interested citizen groups appealed to their Congressmen for aid. These official representatives held several conferences with Public Health Service officials in Washington in regard to steps that might be taken to clean up Corney Creek.

On June 9, 1954, the Surgeon General of the Public Health Service acting under authority granted him by Public Law 845,

stated that the pollution of Corney Creek and its tributaries was declared to be pollution under the meaning of the Act, because the brine discharges of Arkansas Oil Fields endangered the welfare of people in Louisiana, and therefore such pollution was declared to be a public nuisance subject to abatement in accordance with the provisions of the Federal Anti-Pollution Act.

The companies charged with responsibility for the pollution were given six months from receipt of notice to abate the pollution.

It will be extremely interesting to watch the progress of this case, one of the first ever to be instituted by the Public Health Service under provisions of Public Law 845. —THE END

New Commission Radio Program

The Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission inaugurated a new radio show on WDSU, New Orleans, on Friday night, July 30, and it will be heard at 10:05 o'clock each Friday night. Mel Washburn, of the Division of Education and Publicity, is the producer and author, and Gay Batson, chief announcer for WDSU, with Charles Flotte, engineer, handles the station's end of it.

The new program will feature timely information on hunting, fishing, Commission and conservation activities.

PEARSON IMPROVES

J. W. Pearson, payroll clerk in the accounting division of the Wild Life and Fisheries Commission, who has been on disability leave since April, is reported better. Mr. Pearson has been with the Commission since July 1, 1941, and although he had not been in good health for some time he did not become critically ill until last April. Since that time he has been recovering slowly.

FIRST CHOUPIQUE RODEO

Nothing new under the sun? Ever hear of a choupique rodeo? No? Well, you're hearing about one now—the very first one! It will be staged by the Greater Houma Carnival Club on Sunday, September 12, from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m.

The rules are simple, too. The rodeo boundaries are listed as "Anywhere", but all entries—and that means only choupique—must be weighed in at the judges' stand in the Houma American Legion grounds by 7 p.m. All entries to be eligible for prizes must pay a \$2 registration fee, the registration card being in the form of a ticket to the "First Annual Choupique Rodeo".

There will be five prizes, all cash. First prize is \$50, second \$25, third \$25, smallest choupique \$10, and a \$50 contestants' prize. Everyone is invited to enter.



WILD ADVENTURE, by *Howard Hill*. Published by the Stackpole Company, Telegraph Press Building, Harrisburg, Penna., 1954. 6" x 9", 228 pages. Price: \$4.95.

Howard Hill is unquestionably the best known archer of modern times. With bow and arrow he has hunted most species of game during the past thirty years, in several countries. In the course of his adventures he became interested in photography, and much of **WILD ADVENTURE** is concerned with incidents arising from the filming of wildlife. It is apparent early in the book that Hill has a real appreciation of the out-of-doors, and this volume is a delightfully refreshing contrast to his last movie fiasco, "Tembo". Here he recounts his exploits with the long bow in fairly matter-of-fact fashion, which is as it should be for a man of his ability with this weapon. Very interesting reading.

SPINNING IN AMERICA, by *Ray Orington*. Published by the Stackpole Company, Telegraph Press Building, Harrisburg, Penna., 1954. 6" x 9", 205 pages. Price: \$5.00.

Probably no phase of fishing has mushroomed as rapidly as has spinning in America in the past decade five or ten years. Everywhere you turn you see men, women, and children handling this "thread-line" tackle with ease who had never heard of it ten years ago. **SPINNING IN AMERICA** gives almost complete coverage of this technique. It includes chapters on the history of spinning, choosing the tackle, using the tackle, fresh water spinning, and salt water spinning. We personally feel that it devotes too little space to bass fishing and too much to such trivialities as trout, but then not all sections of the country can be as fortunate as Louisiana.

THE DUCK HUNTER'S MANUAL, by *Bob Kennedy*. Published by Hanover House, Garden City, N. Y., 1954. 5½" x 3½", 96 pages. Price: \$1.50.

Another pocket manual, this time on ducks. Its author offers this word of caution in the preface: "There are far more complete books than mine on the market. Their authors, unlike myself, spend their lives studying waterfowl, and much information can be gained by reading these large volumes. This book, on the other hand, is designed to be carried to the blind. In pictures and text it gives basic facts you need." That about says it. The first four pages show the four flyways.

After that, each species of duck is taken up in turn, giving such information as range, abundance, food habits, preferred habitat, and flight characteristics. Included is a black and white sketch of both male and female of the species, and another of a suggested decoy setup for that general group of ducks.

THE NATIONAL PARKS, by *Freeman Tilden*. Published by Alfred A. Knopf, Inc., 501 Madison Ave., N. Y., 1954. 4½" x 7½", 294 pages. Price: \$1.00.

This is the paper-bound edition of the original \$5.00 edition which was published in 1951. It is a worthwhile addition to the library of anyone interested in the out-of-doors. Tilden scrapes the mold and antiquity from our parks and monuments and makes them come alive. This handbook will be particularly interesting and valuable to the traveler. Did you, for instance, know that your National Park Service now administers more than twenty-one million acres of land? A large area, for sure, but still less than one percent of the country's land area.

ANIMAL TRACKS, published by the Stackpole Company, Telegraph Press Bldg., Harrisburg, Penna., 1954. 8" x 10", 64 pages. Price: \$1.50.

This manual has an introduction by R. Marlin Perkins, Director of the Lincoln Park Zoo, and its fine sketches were done by the Canadian artist, Luis M. Henderson. It contains drawings of 41 animals and their tracks. Along with the sketches is such information as range, characteristics, breeding, size, and food habits. There are some excellent pages where the tracks of similar animals are listed comparatively. This is a very good book to introduce most of the mammals on the continent to your youngster, and you'll be surprised to find just how much of the material in it was news to you.

THE HIL-STDAND PISTOL GUIDE, by *Burr Leyson*. Published by Greenberg: Publisher, 201 E. 57th St., N. Y., 1954. 5" x 8", 76 pages. Price: \$1.95.

This follows on the heels of Leyson's guide on Colt pistols, which was published last year, and is just as complete as that one was. It contains descriptions of most, if not all, of the pistols ever made by Hi-Standard. In addition, it devotes about half of the book to the adjustment and repair of these guns.

THE COMPLETE BOOK OF FRESH WATER FISHING, by *Larry Koeller*. Published by the Bobbs-Merrill Company, Inc., N. Y., 1954. 7" x 10", 144 pages. Price: \$2.75.

A good, solid presentation by a veteran fisherman and writer. The book is well illustrated with photographs and drawings, probably three-fourths of the total contents. Has an unusually good section on how to tie knots, something at which most fishermen are notoriously weak. I find the same minor fault with this publication that I find with most fishing books—too much damyankee flavor. The setting for practically every photo is far north of the M-D line, and it's difficult for most of us cajuns to get interested in "Running the St. Croix", to which Koeller devotes a whole chapter. Some wise guy is going to come out with a book some day that does the fishing South justice, and he'll have it made. But then I guess it would be hard to interest northerners in something like, "Floating the Bogue Chitto".

WATERFOWL SHOOTING, by *Wallace R. Labisky*. Published by Greenberg: Publisher, New York, 1954. 6" x 9", 150 pages. Price: \$4.50.

A better- than- average, common- sense treatment of a subject that is without peer as argument material. Most of the data in this will not be new to the veteran wild-fowler, but the beginner will benefit much from it. Even the most experienced shooter will enjoy it, although he will undoubtedly disagree with some of the author's ideas. In addition to the usual sections on decoys, guns, blinds, etc., it has chapters on the Flight Speed of Waterfowl, Wild-Fowlers' Decorum, and Combatting the Elements.

New Laws of Interest

Many new laws affecting sportsmen were passed at the last session of the Louisiana legislature. We will try to carry a complete resume of them next month but, meanwhile, here are a few that will be of immediate interest.

Persons under 16 years of age, either resident or non-resident, are no longer required to have a license to hunt or fish. All non-residents were formerly required to buy a license, and all residents had to have a hunting license.

There is no longer any size limit on fresh water game fish. This is in line with the biological opinion that size limits are not needed in this state. Most of the other southern states have no size limits.

The legal mesh size for fresh water commercial seines is now "not less than two inches square or four inches stretched after treating with tar." Fresh water bait seines may now measure thirty feet in length instead of twenty feet.

Skin divers may now operate in salt water for sport when submerged into the water and using standard spear-fishing equipment.

Garfish may now be taken by means of spears, guns, bow and arrow, and traps.



Bayou Browsing



Firmly ensconced in the stark, air-conditioned confines of a pine-paneled shack on Black Lake, I will endeavor to knock out a few not-so-immortal paragraphs. I am aided and abetted in this task by the two male hellions of the family, aged one and a half and two and a half respectively. No, not respectfully. Kent and Tom are at the time dividing their talents between trying to bash my head in with a coke bottle and seeing who can bounce the highest, trampoline fashion, from the Simmons innerspring. Yes, the Greshams are on vacation. Vacation of a sort, that is. In the day and a half we've been here I've already run into several potential articles for the magazine. I intend to finish this column, and I hear that the new Black Lake local of the Federation is having a fish fry this week. I'll try to make that, too. Guess that's what you get for having a job you enjoy so much it makes you kinda 'shamed to pick up your check. Almost, that is. I always manage.

* * * *

The hunting season is upon us. From the 16th of September until February 15 some species of game will be legal fare. Your \$2.00 Louisiana hunting license is indeed a bargain. For less than the price of a box of shells you can hunt doves, quail, deer, bear, woodcock, rabbits, squirrels, 'coons, rails, and gallinules. For another \$2.00 "duck stamp", you can add ducks and geese.

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When you're reading this you should have a week or so before the dove season opens. Why not get that gun out now and give it a good going over. While you're doing it let your mind wander over the fundamentals of good gun handling—safe gun handling.

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Another hunting note. You can do a good turn for game management if you begin now keeping a record of your kill of the various species for the coming season. Items which are of interest and value include days hunted, total kill, and number of cripples lost. If you're like most of us, you'll prefer to forget the number of shells fired.

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Visitors during the month included my ex-boss Howard Miller, who is in charge of all refuges of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in this

region. He is quite concerned about the spread of alligator weed through the marshes of our state, and spent several days photographing the Laccasine and Sabine preserves via helicopter. He reports that the marsh buggy is one of the worst culprits when it comes to spreading this pest.

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Squirrel and deer hunters will be interested in a couple of articles we have coming up in the next month or two. J. B. Kidd will tell you about the "Squirrels of Louisiana", and Raymond Moody will report on the deer data gathered during the past hunting season.

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Carrol Perkins, Asst. P-R coordinator, just returned from a six weeks' tour in Canada, where he aided the U.S.F.W.S. in their duck banding operations. His place will be taken for the remaining six weeks' period by Dick Yancey, chief waterfowl biologist for the Commission. Carrol reports an abundance of ducks on the breeding grounds, and lots of rainfall, indicating that prospects are for a good season this year.

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A sport that is growing by leaps, literally, in the southern part of Arkansas is that of sport-fishing for alligator garfish. Several guides now operate along the lower White River to take parties after the monster gars. When taken on medium weight salt water gear these fish can provide a lot of fun. This is a field that we here in Louisiana might invade—we've got the gars.

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Another new item, also from Arkansas. A camp operator on one of their deep reservoirs has installed a water thermometer, and each morning lists the temperatures at the varying depths. Knowing that different fish are more active at some temperatures than at others, the fishermen know at what depth to begin fishing. 'Course, if the fish don't bite there I imagine the fishermen try everything from top to bottom. Don't you?

* * * *

Who can come up with an answer to this one? Sportsmen are complaining that the license plate which they must affix to their boat trailer doesn't last long. The periodic dunking the plate gets when the trailer is backed into the water for boat loading and unloading causes it to rust off in a short time. This is especially true where the contact is with salt water. If you have an idea on this problem pass it on to the Louisiana Department of Public Safety or to us. C.H.G.



November morn.

—Photo by Gresho